Right to Practice and Interact as a Profession

Source Adopted November 2014 by House of Delegates

WHEREAS, the House of Delegates of the Dental Hygienists’ Association of the State of New York,

- **RECOGNIZING** the situation of need in New York State concerning the issue of limited access to preventive dental hygiene services; and cognizant of the socio-economic and political implications,

- **GRATEFUL** for the rights and responsibilities bestowed upon Dental Hygienists in New York State to practice their profession unencumbered by archaic supervision laws, but rather under General Supervision and Collaborative Practice,

- **BELIEVING THAT** all New Yorkers – including the general public, policy makers, administrators, dentists, health practitioners – could mutually benefit through the reaffirmation that dental hygiene is an autonomous profession with strong inter-professional capabilities and interacts with all health and human service care providers

THEREFORE RESOLVES, that:

1. The Dental Hygiene Practice Act states that "[the] practice of dental hygiene ... must be done under supervision of a licensed dentist" or effective January 1, 2015, pursuant to a collaborative arrangement as defined in regulations of the Commissioner of Education approved by the Board of Regents.

2. Personal supervision shall mean that the dentist in the dental office or facility, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure and, before dismissal of the patient, personally examines the condition after treatment is completed. ii

3. General supervision shall mean that a supervising dentist is available for consultation, diagnosis and evaluation, has authorized the dental hygienist to perform the services, and exercises that degree of supervision appropriate to the circumstances. iii

4. Practice guidelines posted by the State Board for Dentistry are offered as a matter of general guidance and do not carry the force of law. iv

5. To draw attention to the services of dental hygienists, the Dental Hygienists’ Association of the State of New York encourage policymakers, health and human service professionals, stakeholders, oral health educators – both dental and dental hygiene - and the public to work to establish a plan with the goal of improved oral health status by way of prevention and basic dental hygiene therapeutic services.

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i [http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/article133.htm#dhdef](http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/article133.htm#dhdef); § 6606. Definition of practice of dental hygiene

ii [http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/part61.htm#dhpract](http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/part61.htm#dhpract); §61.9 Practice of dental hygiene

iii [http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/part61.htm#dhpract](http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/part61.htm#dhpract); §61.9 Practice of dental hygiene.

iv [http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/dentpracticeguide.htm](http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/dentpracticeguide.htm); Supervision.