Dental Hygienist Collaborative Practice Toolkit

Prepared by: Dental Hygienists’ Association of the State of New York

Have you ever desired the opportunity to enter into direct access dental hygiene practice thus offering you a professional challenge, possibility of opening doors to new opportunities, providing unique satisfaction that accompanies being able to provide services to people experiencing challenges to obtaining preventive services?

If so, you may want to investigate a new practice opportunity available to dental hygienist in New York State. As of January 2015, a New York State registered dental hygienist may provide dental hygiene care under a “collaborative arrangement” as a new career option, a part time vocation or on an occasional or volunteer basis.

What is a collaborative arrangement? In general, collaborative arrangement means that the dental hygienist has established a written agreement with a dentist who has agreed to monitor treatment of patients and consult as needed. The dental hygienist and dentist jointly establish a protocol that describes the services the hygienist may provide outside of the traditional supervision restrictions. (www.adha.org). New York state legislation, limits a collaborative arrangement between a dental hygienist and dentist to facilities organized under Article 28.

What is the goal of this toolkit? The toolkit is a collection of information and resources provided to assist the registered dental hygienist in New York State preparing to enter into this new professional opportunity, that is, providing preventive and therapeutic oral health care services under a collaborative arrangement.
**arrangement with facilities organized under Article 28.** The information in this toolkit is based upon current literature in the year 2015 and should be used as a resource only. All oral health care providers are advised to read and understand the rules and regulations governing the practice of dentistry and dental hygiene in New York State before providing oral health care services under a collaborative agreement.

**How do I use the toolkit?** The toolkit content information is presented as a pdf in a PowerPoint format. The series of eight (8) PowerPoint presentations will provide general information to the registered dental hygienist seeking to practice under a collaborative arrangement within a New York State facility organized under Article 28. The series of power points are best read in order, however may be opened in any order. A description of each power point follows.

**Introduction to Collaborative Practice**
Defines the role of “collaborative practice” in dentistry, the burden of oral disease in New York and challenges to meeting the oral health needs of our populations. In addition, an overview of the toolkit is described including strategies for pursuing a collaborative arrangement.

**Legislation and Requirements**
Reviews the legislative guidelines for a dental hygienist seeking to practice under a collaborative arrangement, definition of a facility organized under Article 28, facility locations and settings included under Article 28.

**Management: Collaborative Arrangement in Facilities under Article 28**
Defines professional standards for clinical dental hygiene practice, reviews guidelines for management of patient records, and suggests program planning strategies to consider.

**Mobile Dental Facilities**
Reviews mobile and portable dental operations including equipment, licensing and maintenance.

**Risk Management**
Reviews legal and ethical considerations for the practice of dental hygiene and application to practicing under a collaborative arrangement. Content includes overview of professional core values, HIPPA, informed consent, abandonment, quality assurance, infection control, liability protection and medical emergency protocol.
Special Care Populations

Provides an overview of populations with special care needs and considerations for applying patient-centered care strategies. All populations could not be included in the confines of this power point. However, the clinician can apply the same strategies to any population by being prepared with the knowledge, skills and evidence-based strategies necessary for caring for that population. Additional populations may be added in the future.

Risk Assessment, School Readiness Certificate and Evidence Base Oral Disease Preventive Strategies

Reviews widely accepted risk assessment tools, guidelines for implementing, documenting and reporting findings related to the School Readiness Certificate and evidence-based oral disease preventive strategies.

Cultural Competency

 Defines cultural competence, integrating cultural competence in patient care and strategies for self-awareness.

To begin, go to the “Introduction” power point. At the completion of each series of power point slides, the next sequential power point will be provided or you may close and return to the main page access the next power point.

Acknowledgments

This guidance document is a joint effort of Dental Hygienists’ Association of the State of New York (DHASNY), DHASNY’s Professional Practice and Education Committee and members of the professional community.