

NYDHA EMPIRE CONFERENCE

**Saturday, Oct. 7, 2026-
from 12-2:30 p.m.**

**Course 7
2 CE hours**

Current Issues and Advocacy: What RDHs Should Know About Scope of Practice

Description: How does your scope of practice happen? This course will bring you the latest developments in New York State dental hygienists' scope of practice and what it means for your professional practice and RDH license.

We'll talk about the status of 2 upcoming opportunities for dental hygienists achieved through NYDHA legislative advocacy—certification in block anesthesia and RDH-Collaborative Practice—and what the next steps are if you want to practice with these new provisions. We'll give you a look at what's on NYDHA's 2027 advocacy agenda.

Each state is different. Our discussion will include information on the roles of legislation and regulations in setting scope of practice in New York State. We'll review how the State Board of Dentistry, Education Department, Health Department function in this arena. It's important to keep track of what other states are experiencing in terms of oral healthcare workforce measures.

Learning Objectives: Attendees will increase their knowledge and have an opportunity to have their questions answered regarding:

- Legislative, regulatory and public policy issues and initiatives concerning oral health and dental hygiene practice in New York State.
- How new legislation and guidelines increase opportunities for RDHs and access to care.
- Translating law and regulations into practice.
- How the NYDHA advocacy program works on behalf of the profession and its agenda.

Join Donna and colleagues in discussing what really makes dental hygienists' scope of practice in New York happen, and what's new and on the horizon.

About Our Speaker

Donna Hickey, RDH, has served at all levels of the tripartite professional association. Currently Vice President of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy, she participates in webinar and programs on scope of practice and related issues, as well as meetings with lawmakers and others, advocating for hygienists to be able to work at the top of their education and experience.



A past President of NYDHA and the Long Island component, she also served as District II Trustee to the ADHA.

She was NYDHA's project leader and a coach for the Mouth Care Without a Battle research project and served on the SUNY Farmingdale Advisory Board. She has over 25 years of clinical experience as a dental hygienist.