



SUPERVISION AND DELEGATION OF INTRAORAL DUTIES

The Idaho Dental Practice Act, at Idaho Code Section 54-903, defines applicable dental professionals and supervision levels as follows:

“Dental Hygienist” is a person both qualified and licensed by the laws of Idaho to practice dental hygiene.

“Dental Assistant” is a person who need not be licensed under this chapter, but who is regularly employed at a dental office, who works under a dentist’s supervision, and is adequately trained and qualified according to standards established by the board to perform the dental services permitted to be performed by assistants by this chapter and applicable rules of the board.

“Direct Supervision” is supervision of a dental therapist, dental assistant or dental hygienist requiring that a dentist diagnose the condition to be treated, that a dentist authorize the procedure to be performed, that a dentist remain in the dental office while the procedure is performed, and that before dismissal of the patient a dentist approves the work performed by the dental assistant or dental hygienist.

“Indirect Supervision” is supervision of a dental therapist, dental assistant or dental hygienist requiring that a dentist authorize a procedure and that a dentist be in the dental office while the procedure is performed by the assistant or hygienist.

“General Supervision” is supervision of a dental therapist, dental assistant or dental hygienist requiring that a dentist authorize the procedure which is carried out, but not requiring that a dentist be in the office when the authorized procedure is performed.

DENTAL ASSISTANTS – PRACTICE. Pursuant to Section 54-903(4), Idaho Code, and these rules, dental assistants are authorized to perform dental services for which they are trained unless prohibited by these rules. Dental assistants must be directly supervised by a dentist when performing intraoral procedures except when providing palliative care as directed by the supervising dentist.

Permissible Duties for Dental Hygienists (Duties permitted under general supervision may also be performed under indirect or direct supervision)	General Supervision	Direct Supervision
Oral Prophylaxis (removal of stains and plaque biofilm and if present, supragingival and/or subgingival calculus)	✓	
Medical history assessments and intra-oral and extra-oral assessments (including charting of the oral cavity and surrounding structures, taking case histories and periodontal assessment)	✓	
Developing patient care plans for prophylaxis, non-surgical periodontal therapy and supportive and evaluative care in accordance with the treatment parameters set by supervising dentist	✓	
Root planing	✓	
Non-surgical periodontal therapy	✓	
Closed subgingival curettage	✓	
Administration of local anesthesia	✓	
Removal of marginal overhangs (use of high speed handpieces or surgical instruments is prohibited)	✓	
Application of topical antibiotics or antimicrobials (used in non-surgical periodontal therapy)	✓	
Placement of antibiotic treated materials pursuant to dentist authorization	✓	
Use of a laser restricted to gingival curettage and bleaching		✓
Administration and monitoring of nitrous oxide/oxygen	✓	
Provide patient education and instruction in oral hygiene and preventive services	✓	

DENTAL HYGIENIST—PROHIBITED DUTIES

- Definitive diagnosis and dental treatment planning
- The operative preparation of teeth for the placement of restorative materials
- The intraoral placement or carving of restorative materials unless authorized by issuance of an extended access restorative license endorsement
- Administration of any general anesthesia or moderate sedation
- Final placement of any fixed or removable appliances
- Final removal of any fixed appliance
- Cutting procedures utilized in the preparation of the coronal or root portion of the tooth
- Cutting procedures involving the supportive structures of the tooth
- Placement of the final root canal filling
- Occlusal equilibration procedures for any prosthetic restoration, whether fixed or removable
- Final placement of prefabricated or cast restorations or crowns

DENTAL ASSISTANT—PROHIBITED DUTIES

- The intraoral placement or carving of permanent restorative materials
- Any irreversible procedure
- The administration of any sedation or local injectable anesthetic
- Removal of calculus
- Use of an air polisher
- Any intraoral procedure using a high speed handpiece, except for the removal of orthodontic cement or resin
- Any dental hygiene prohibited duty

To ensure the public health, safety and welfare in the state of Idaho by the licensure and regulation of dentists and dental hygienists.



This chart is provided as a public service and every reasonable attempt was made to ensure its accuracy. Official versions of the Idaho Dental Practice Act and the Board of Dentistry's Administrative Rules are available at www.isbd.idaho.gov.