

POLICY STATEMENT



NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR
COLLEGE OF
DENTAL HYGIENISTS INC.

ORTHODONTICS

PURPOSE

To clarify the dental hygiene scope of practice as it relates to orthodontics.

BACKGROUND

A Registered Dental Hygienist shall not perform orthodontic procedures unless:

- a) the member is authorized by the council for the additional skill of orthodontics, upon proof of successful completion of the required education for the performance of the procedures;
- b) the authorization to perform the procedures is attached to the members registration; and
- c) the member performs the procedure under the direction of a dentist

POLICY STATEMENT

Registered Dental Hygienists registered with the NLCHP who have met the requirements for additional skills in orthodontics treatment are required by the Dental Hygienists Regulations to do orthodontic work according to the direction of a practicing dentist.

Direction for orthodontic services must be identified through a treatment plan, prior written direction or communicated verbally by a dental practitioner.

Registered Dental Hygienists who have been granted this additional skill in orthodontics are required to maintain continuing competency and declared work hours.

POLICY EXPECTATIONS

A Registered Dental Hygienist must...

1. Perform only orthodontic-related activities for which they have the required authorization.
2. Be responsible and accountable for safely performing orthodontic-related activities.
3. Only perform orthodontic-related activities if:
 - a. They are educated and competent to perform it.
 - b. An appropriate client assessment has been performed.
 - c. The orthodontic-related activity is appropriate to the procedure being performed.
4. Be aware of risks associated with performing orthodontic-related activity and ensure that risk mitigation measures are in place to manage any adverse events associated with performing it.

5. Complete an approved education course, apply to the NLCHP for authorization, and receive authorization from the NLCHP prior to Performing Orthodontic Procedures

GUIDELINES

There are currently no approved orthodontic courses available in Newfoundland and Labrador. Training outcomes must be evaluated for credit. Evidence of successful completion of the orthodontic course (e.g. transcript from dental hygiene program, certificate of completion from continuing education course) must be provided. The program must include theoretical and clinical aspects. NLCDH is responsible for reviewing and approving education courses submitted by registrants.

Registrants must provide documentation to the NLCHP upon initial registration or if the course is completed once registered, immediately upon completion. Registered Dental Hygienists are not permitted to practice using orthodontic skills until approved by the NLCHP. Registered Dental Hygienists who have been approved to use orthodontic skills will hold registration title: General Status – Additional Skills (Orthodontics)

Course must be completed within 48 months prior to the date of application. If more than 48 months have elapsed since the applicant completed the course/performed orthodontic procedures on a regular basis, the applicant must successfully complete the required course prior to being reconsidered for recognition of orthodontic credentials.

CLIENT / PATIENT EXPECTATIONS

The client can expect that a Registered Dental Hygienist performs orthodontic-related activities which they are authorized to provide in a safe, effective, and appropriate manner.

Published December 11, 2023