

Dental Hygiene Prescription Supervision Policy

This policy was written with guidance from **INSERT NAME OF PERSON PROVIDING GUIDANCE IF APPLICABLE.**

- Hygienists must be licensed and have two years' experience working an average of twenty hours per week
- A dentist must first do a comprehensive exam
- A note on the patient chart must state:
 - the patient may be scheduled for a prophylaxis (prophy)
 - the dentist must sign and date to validate the prescription
- A prescriptive supervision order is valid for 45 days
- A dental assistant or hygienist may write the prescription as long as the dentist signs with same date

If a dentist sees a patient on an emergency basis (for example: an extraction):

- A re-care type exam, at minimum, must be done in order to prescribe a prophy
- A limited or problem focused exam is not acceptable

After the initial comprehensive exam, any subsequent exams may be a re-care type exam with a new prophy order written according to the above documentation guidelines.

Definitions:

Comprehensive: the initial, in-depth examination including all hard and soft tissues in and around the oral cavity

Re-Care: includes examination of the full mouth, teeth and gingiva; not as in-depth as a comprehensive exam

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