



Scope of Practice for Dental Assistant and Dental Hygienist

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1. Definitions and Abbreviations

No.	Term / Abbreviation	Definition
1.1	Dentistry	Is the field concern with the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of conditions, disorders, and diseases of the teeth, gums, mouth, and jaw
1.2	Dental Assistant	Is a health professional who provide clinical and other tasks in the dental office to support dentists and patients. Their tasks rang widely from direct patient care to administrative duties and laboratory functions also called Dental Nurse. Their direct intervention to patients happens upon dentist's instruction and under supervision.
1.3	Dental Hygienist	Is an oral health professional who support patients to maintain their oral health through treating periodontal disease, providing different oral disease prevention interventions, and promoting good oral health practice. They work with patients directly based on prescription from a dentist. Dental hygienists work independently, with general supervision from a dentist. Dental hygienists are important part of dentist-led teams.

2. SOP Purpose

The purpose of this document is to:

- 2.1. Define the range of clinical services provided by Dental Assistant and Dental Hygienist and the associated competencies.
- 2.2. Describe the professional boundaries, accountabilities, ethical and legal obligations toward patients and society.
- 2.3. Serve as a reference for the healthcare workforce, healthcare providers, health services payers and governance bodies.

3. SOP Scope

The scope of practice described in this document, applies to DOH licensed Dental Assistant and Dental Hygienist professionals, and to all healthcare providers, public and private, who provide and operate dental profession services, who wish to practice in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

4. Practice Settings

Dental assistant and Dental hygienist may work in licensed healthcare facilities such as:

- Hospitals
- Medical and Dental Centers
- Primary Health care Centers
- Specialized Clinics
- Mobile Health Units
- One Day Surgery Center
- School Clinics
- Home care Services

5. Standard of Proficiency

Dental Assistant and Dental Hygienist must practice in accordance with Abu Dhabi and UAE local and federal laws, ethical values, standards of professional conduct, delineated clinical privileges, and clinical practice protocols and guidelines published by national or international professional organizations (1,2,3,4,5,6 & 7). Dental Assistant and Dental Hygienist should update their knowledge, and skills continuously to warrant best treatment outcomes, this include acquiring the digital skills related to medical technology in the Dental profession.

5.1 Dental assistant:

The tasks performed by dental assistants might vary based on the facility practice settings they are working in, as well as the dental specialty they support. Dental assistant, can undertake the following tasks:

5.1.1 Clinical

- 5.1.1.1 Prepare and maintain the clinical environment, including setting up the dental surgical equipment
- 5.1.1.2 Provide chairside support to the operator during treatment
- 5.1.1.3 Provide good customer care and communicate effectively with respect and empathy
- 5.1.1.4 Prepare the patient before dental treatment with knowledge of the procedure, equipment and dental materials required.
- 5.1.1.5 Record patient's medical history, vital sign and pain assessment if needed.
- 5.1.1.6 Support in dental charting and oral tissue assessment carried out by dentist
- 5.1.1.7 Assist the dentist effectively and efficiently to facilitate timely and quality workflow.
- 5.1.1.8 Monitor, support and reassure patients and give appropriate advice
- 5.1.1.9 Support patient and colleagues if there is a medical emergency
- 5.1.1.10 Participate in oral health education and oral health promotion
- 5.1.1.11 Prepare, mix and safe handle dental materials
- 5.1.1.12 Follow defined protocols on correct use, storage and disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous dental materials according to manufacturer's guidelines.
- 5.1.1.13 Order dental consumables, and maintain accurate clinic inventory both for dental equipment and instruments
- 5.1.1.14 Interpret Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) Assist in teeth whitening procedures (if trained and competent)
- 5.1.1.15 Place rubber dam on patients (if trained and competent)
- 5.1.1.16 Take an accurate dental impression with detailed reproduction of required margins and oral replica
- 5.1.1.17 Construct mouth guards and bleaching trays to the prescription of a dentist (if trained and competent).
- 5.1.1.18 Assist in orthodontic procedures (if trained and competent).
- 5.1.1.19 Assist in laser technology for dental treatment and bleaching procedures.
- 5.1.1.20 Assist the dentist who is providing treatment under general anesthesia and conscious sedation and maintain the dental equipment setup related to the practice setting (if trained and competent)
- 5.1.1.21 Assist in the treatment of patients with special needs
- 5.1.1.22 Assist in the behavioral management of pediatric patients (if trained and competent)
- 5.1.1.23 Ensure documented reports are kept up to date on dental equipment testing in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines.
- 5.1.1.24 Maintain up to date knowledge and skills through Health Education activities related to dental assisting

5.1.2 Infection Prevention

5.1.2.1 Demonstrate knowledge on international standard precaution practices, and the organization policies and procedures set out to prevent transmission of disease within the healthcare setting.

5.1.2.2 Adhere to infection prevention (control) procedures to prevent physical, chemical and microbiological contamination in the clinical setting

5.1.3 Sterilization

5.1.3.1 Ensure all dental instruments used for patient care are cleaned and sterilized (through knowledge on instrument sterilization, chemical indicators, and validity of sterility condition).

5.1.3.2 Demonstrate Knowledge of CSSD testing parameters both chemical and biological to ensure instrument sterility.

5.1.4 Radiology

5.1.4.1 Prepare equipment, materials and patients for dental radiography

5.1.4.2 Take intra oral and extra oral digital X-rays based on the prescription of a dentist – following completion of supervised training and competency on dental radiology and radiation safety procedures -.

5.1.4.3 Comply with government regulations on radiation safety as set out by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANAR)

5.1.4.4 Retrieve digital radiographs

5.1.4.5 Take Intra and extra-oral photography

5.1.5 Safety

Comply with safety and health regulations in accordance with Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) standards

5.1.6 Administration

Perform organizing and administrative duties, using basic computer skills.

5.2 Dental Hygienist:

Dental Hygienists work independently, with general supervision from a dentist. Dental hygienist, can undertake the following if trained, competent and indemnified:

5.2.1 Clinical

5.2.1.1 Obtain a detailed dental history from patients and evaluate their medical history

5.2.1.2 Complete periodontal examination and charting and use indices to screen and monitor periodontal disease

5.2.1.3 Identify anatomical features, recognize abnormalities and interpret common pathology

5.2.1.4 Perform patient screening procedures, develop prevention treatment plan and refer oral disease to dentist

5.2.1.5 Carry out oral cancer screening

5.2.1.6 Perform disease investigation including dental plaque analysis and x-rays (Competency required)

5.2.1.7 Consult and participate with respect to diagnosis and appropriate remedy with the dentist

- 5.2.1.8 Counsel patients regarding good nutrition and its impact on oral health
- 5.2.1.9 Educate the patients about the risk of smoking
- 5.2.1.10 Make appropriate referrals to other dental health professionals when needed
- 5.2.1.11 Recognize and support action to deal with medical emergencies
- 5.2.1.12 Provide supra and subgingival scaling including comprehensive root surface debridement and apply medications when indicated
- 5.2.1.13 Use appropriate anti-microbial therapy to manage plaque related diseases
- 5.2.1.14 Adjust restored surfaces in relation to periodontal treatment plan
- 5.2.1.15 Provide maintenances care to peri-implant tissues
- 5.2.1.16 Apply preventive materials such as fissure sealants to the teeth (competency required)
- 5.2.1.17 Perform teeth whitening (if trained and competent)
- 5.2.1.18 Administer local anesthesia infiltration (training and competency required)

5.2.2 Radiology

- 5.2.2.1 Prepare equipment, materials and patients for dental radiography
- 5.2.2.2 Take intra oral and extra oral digital X-rays – following completion of supervised training and competency on dental radiology and radiation safety procedures -.
- 5.2.2.3 Take, process and interpret various film views used in general dental practice
- 5.2.2.4 Comply with government regulations on radiation safety as set out by the Federal Authority for Nuclear Regulation (FANAR)
- 5.2.2.5 Take Intra and extra-oral photography

5.2.3 Infection Prevention

- 5.2.3.1 Demonstrate knowledge on international standard precaution practices, and the organization policies and procedures set out to prevent transmission of disease within the healthcare setting.
- 5.2.3.2 Adhere to infection prevention (control) procedures to prevent physical, chemical and microbiological contamination in the clinical setting

5.2.4 Sterilization

- 5.2.4.1 Ensure all dental instruments used for patient care are cleaned and sterilized (through knowledge on instrument sterilization, chemical indicators, and validity of sterility condition).
- 5.1.4.2 Demonstrate Knowledge of CSSD testing parameters both chemical and biological to ensure instrument sterility.

6. Specific Learning Requirement / Privileging Requirement

Dental assistant and Dental hygienist professionals are obliged to complete all the trainings/competencies that are necessary for the delivery of safe and quality care. Examples of areas that requires specific training and competency evaluation are:

6.1. For dental assistant:

- 6.1.1 Sedation
- 6.1.2 Dental Radiology
- 6.1.3 Behavioral treatment of pediatric patients
- 6.1.4 Care of patients receiving treatment under general anesthesia
- 6.1.5 Placing rubber dam
- 6.1.6 Construct mouth guards and bleaching trays
- 6.1.7 Assist in orthodontic procedures
- 6.1.8 Assist in teeth whitening procedures

6.2. For dental hygienist:

- 6.2.1 Fissure sealants
- 6.2.2 Dental radiology
- 6.2.3 Local anesthesia infiltration
- 6.2.4 Teeth whitening

8. Relevant Reference Documents

No.	Reference Date	Reference Name	Relation Explanation / Coding / Publication Links
1	15-July-2022	Federal Law No. (5) of 2019 on Regulating the Practice of Human Medicine and its Executive Regulations.	https://www.doh.gov.ae/ar/about/law-and-legislations ; https://mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/legal-references
2	15-July-2022	Federal Law No. (5) of 1984 concerning the Practice of Some Health Professions by Persons other than Physicians and Pharmacists	https://www.doh.gov.ae/ar/about/law-and-legislations
3	15-July-2022	Ministerial Resolution No. (1448) of 2017 on Adoption of Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct for Health Professionals	https://mohap.gov.ae/app_content/legislations/php-law-ar-64/mobile/index.html
4	15-July-2022	Federal Law on the Prevention of Communicable Disease No. (14) of 2014 and its Executive Regulations	https://www.doh.gov.ae/ar/about/law-and-legislations https://mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/legal-references
5	15-July-2022	Federal Decree Law No. (4) of 2016 Concerning Medical Liability and its Executive Regulations	https://www.doh.gov.ae/ar/about/law-and-legislations https://mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/legal-references
6	15-July-2022	Federal Decree Law No. (33) of 2021 Regarding the Regulation of Employment Relationship and its Executive Regulations	https://www.mohre.gov.ae/ar/laws-and-regulations/laws.aspx https://www.mohre.gov.ae/en/laws-and-regulations/laws.aspx
7	15-July-2022	Federal Law No. (2) of 2019 Concerning the Use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in Health Fields	https://www.doh.gov.ae/ar/about/law-and-legislations https://mohap.gov.ae/en/about-us/legal-references
8	04-July-2022	American Dental Association	ada.org

9	11-July-2022	American Dental Hygienists Association	Scope of Practice ADHA - American Dental Hygienists Association
10	04-July-2022	Australian Dental Association	ada.org.au
11	07-July-2022	Dental Assisting National Board	Dental Assisting National Board DANB
12	11-July-2022	Scope of Practice – Hygienist – The British Association of Dental Therapists	badt.org.uk
13	14-July-2022	Dental why important	marshfieldclinic.org
14	04-July-2022	Scope of practice for Dental Hygienists Dental Council (Scope of Practice	cdho.org
15	14-July-2022	Scope of Practice of a Dental Hygienist – FEDERATION OF DENTAL HYGIENE REGULATORS OF CANADA	fdhrc.ca
16	05-Aug -2022	Dental assistant expanded functions	https://dentalassistedu.org/expanded-functions-dental-assistant/
17	14-July-2022	Dental-hygienists/scope-of-practice in new-Zealand	https://www.dcnz.org.nz/i-practise-in-new-zealand/dental-hygienists/scope-of-practice-for-dental-hygienists
18	05-Aug -2022	Dental-assistants play key role in infection control	https://www.dentistryiq.com/dental-assisting/workplace-safety/article/16365935/dental-assistants-play-key-role-in-infection-control
19	20-July-2022	Teeth whitening - NHS	www.nhs.uk
20	14-July-2022	Who is the DA	(adaausa.org)