



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Policy Statement: Dental Hygiene Temporary Practice Permit, Scope of Practice Limitations during the COVID-19 Response. Policy Number: HSQA OAS E04

Issuing Entity: Department of Health

Subject Matter: Prohibiting certain expanded function duties of dental hygienist who hold a Temporary Practice Permit until all licensing requirements have been completed and a non-temporary dental hygiene credential has been issued.

Effective Date: June 19, 2020

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OFFICE OF THE CODE REVISER
STATE OF WASHINGTON
FILED

DATE: November 03, 2020

TIME: 8:54 AM

WSR 20-22-082

**Department of Health
Office of Health Professions
Dental Hygiene Examining Committee**

Policy Statement

Revised – 10/18/11

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| Title: | Dental Hygiene Temporary Practice Permit, Scope of Practice Limitations. | Number: HSQA OAS E04 |
| References: | Gubernatorial Proclamation 20-59 (June 19, 2020) | |
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| Effective Date: | June 19, 2020 | |
| Supersedes: | n/a | |
| Approved By: | Kristin Peterson, HSQA Assistant Secretary | |

The Department of Health (department) will limit the scope of practice for dental hygienists who hold a Temporary Practice Permit in support of [Proclamation 20-59](#). Dental hygienists working under a Temporary Practice Permit are not allowed to give injections of local anesthetic, or to perform restorative duties including, but not limited to placing restorations into the cavity, and carving, contouring, and adjusting contacts and occlusion of the restoration. These expanded function duties are prohibited until the dental hygienist has completed all licensing requirements and have been issued a non-temporary dental hygiene credential.

In response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and to help meet the demand of healthcare staffing during the pandemic, on June 19, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-59 to modify the eligibility requirements for Temporary Practice Permits of recent graduates from the professional programs in dentistry, pharmacy and dental hygiene. The proclamation allows the department to issue Temporary Practice Permits to recent dental hygiene graduates who meet specific eligibility criteria. The proclamation allows the department to impose limitations on the scope of practice if needed to protect public safety.

To protect public safety, the department has determined that limiting scope of practice is necessary. Dental hygienists who hold a Temporary Practice Permit are not allowed to perform restorative duties, or to give injections of local anesthetic. The potential harm while performing restorative tasks or giving injections of local anesthetic are very high. It is in the best interest of public safety to ensure that dental hygienists have met all didactic and clinical requirements prior to allowing these tasks to be performed. These expanded function duties are prohibited until the dental hygienist has completed all licensing requirements and issued a non-temporary dental hygiene credential.