

## **Dental Hygiene Services in Schools**

New legislation passed in 2009, Substitute House Bill (SHB) 1309, allows dental hygienists to continue to provide an additional dental hygiene service in schools until October 1, 2013 or changed by legislation.

**Under [RCW 18.29.220](#), Practice in a School is limited to the following:**

- Assess for and apply sealants and/or fluoride varnishes.
- Remove deposits and stains from the surfaces of teeth.

### **Requirements**

Dental Hygienists may perform:

- The above functions if they have the school sealant endorsement under RCW 43.70.650.
- Only those duties currently described in RCW 18.29.220.

### **Roles/Responsibilities**

Dental Hygienist will:

- Provide, at a minimum, the following written information specified in RCW 18.29.230 to the patient or parent/legal guardian:
  1. Notice that treatment being given under the program is not a comprehensive oral health care service, but is provided as a preventive service only; and
  2. A recommendation that the patient should be examined by a licensed dentist for comprehensive oral health care services; and
  3. Assist the patient in obtaining a referral for further dental planning and treatment, including providing a written description of methods and sources by which a patient may obtain a referral, if needed, to a dentist, and a list of licensed dentists in the community.
- Comply with WAC 246-814-030(5) and WAC 246-814-040 when coordinating with local health jurisdictions. A "letter of understanding" is recommended.
- Maintain patient records for five (5) years in an orderly, accessible file, available for inspection.
- Complete quarterly reporting. There are two (2) reporting options:
  1. Mail the Dental Hygiene Services Schools Report Form (656-144) for each patient to the Department of Health at the above address.
  2. Email the approved spreadsheet with all patient data listed for the quarter to [Email: vicki.brown@doh.wa.gov](mailto:vicki.brown@doh.wa.gov).

Quarterly reports are due by:

July 1, 2009	October 1, 2009	January 1, 2010
April 1, 2010	July 1, 2010	October 1, 2010
January 1, 2011	April 1, 2011	July 1, 2011
October 1, 2011	January 1, 2012	April 1, 2012
July 1, 2012	October 1, 2012	January 1, 2013
April 1, 2013	July 1, 2013	October 1, 2013

- Display a copy of his/her current license where dental services are being provided.

**For questions or other assistance, you may contact:**

Vicki Brown

(360) 236-4865

**[Email: vicki.brown@doh.wa.gov](mailto:vicki.brown@doh.wa.gov)**.