

TO: Stakeholders

FROM: Vicki Brown, Program Manager

DATE: June 15, 2009

RE: Dental Hygiene Services in Senior Centers and Schools

State law was changed in 2009 to allow dental hygienists to continue to provide an additional hygiene service in schools and limited hygiene services in senior centers. This change was made through Substitute House Bill 1309.

A written practice plan and agreement must be in place before a hygienist can be contracted with, employed or retained to perform services in a senior center. The definition of a senior center has been changed. It now reads, “a multipurpose community facility operated and maintained by a non-profit organization or local government for the organization and provision of a combination of some of the following: health, social, nutritional, educational services, and recreational activities for persons sixty years of age or older.”

The law requires the hygienist performing services in the schools or senior centers to submit quarterly data to the Department of Health. The data must be submitted on the approved forms or spreadsheets until October 1, 2013.

The approved forms and spreadsheets will be posted by July 1. They can be downloaded at http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa/Professions/Dental_Hygiene/forms.htm. These documents must be fully completed. Incomplete forms will be returned to the sender. Without complete information, the department cannot capture accurate data as required by the legislature.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this office at (360) 236-4865.