Agency: Department of Health - Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Effective date of rule:
- Permanent Rules
  - Yes: 31 days after filing.
  - No: Other (specify) (If less than 31 days after filing, a specific finding under RCW 34.05.380(3) is required and should be stated below)

Any other findings required by other provisions of law as precondition to adoption or effectiveness of rule?
- Yes
- No
  If Yes, explain:

Purpose: WAC 246-817-550 Acts that may be performed by licensed dental hygienists under general supervision. The adopted rule amendments update the listing of allowable duties a dentist may delegate to a licensed dental hygienist under general supervision. The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) considered a petition for rulemaking in July 2017 to allow dental hygienists to perform certain tasks under general supervision that are typically completed by dental assistants under close supervision. Close supervision requires the dentist to be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of a delegated task while general supervision does not.

Citation of rules affected by this order:
- New: None
- Repealed: None
- Amended: WAC 246-817-550
- Suspended: None

Statutory authority for adoption: RCW 18.32.0365 and RCW 18.29.050

Other authority:

PERMANENT RULE (Including Expedited Rule Making)
Adopted under notice filed as WSR 19-13-093 on 06/18/2019 (date).
Describe any changes other than editing from proposed to adopted version: None

If a preliminary cost-benefit analysis was prepared under RCW 34.05.328, a final cost-benefit analysis is available by contacting:
Name: Jennifer Santiago
Address: PO BOX 47852, Olympia, WA 98501
Phone: 360-236-4893
Fax: 360-236-2901
TTY: (360) 833-6388 or 711
Email: jennifer.santiago@doh.wa.gov
Web site: www.doh.wa.gov
Other:
Note: If any category is left blank, it will be calculated as zero. No descriptive text.

Count by whole WAC sections only, from the WAC number through the history note. A section may be counted in more than one category.

The number of sections adopted in order to comply with:

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The number of sections adopted at the request of a nongovernmental entity:

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The number of sections adopted in the agency’s own initiative:

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The number of sections adopted in order to clarify, streamline, or reform agency procedures:

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The number of sections adopted using:

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Date Adopted: 07/26/2019

Name: Julia Richman, D.D.S.

Title: Dental Quality Assurance Commission

Signature:
AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 17-01-045, filed 12/13/16, effective 1/13/17)

WAC 246-817-550 Acts that may be performed by licensed dental hygienists under general supervision. A dentist may allow a dental hygienist licensed under chapter 18.29 RCW to perform the following acts under the dentist's general supervision:

1. Head and neck examination.
2. Oral inspection and measuring of periodontal pockets, with no diagnosis.
3. Record health histories.
4. Take and record blood pressure and vital signs.
5. Take intraoral and extraoral radiographs.
6. Take intraoral and extraoral photographs.
7. Patient education in oral hygiene.
8. Take intraoral and extra-oral radiographs.
9. Give preoperative and postoperative instructions.
10. Oral prophylaxis and removal of deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth.
11. Give fluoride treatments.
12. Apply topical anesthetic agents.
13. Deliver oral antibiotic prophylaxis as prescribed by a dentist.
14. Place and remove the rubber dam.
15. Apply topical preventive or prophylactic agents.
16. Perform subgingival and supragingival scaling.
17. Perform root planing.
18. Apply sealants.
19. Polish and smooth restorations.
20. Oral prophylaxis and removal of deposits and stains from the surfaces of the teeth.
21. Record health histories.
22. Take and record blood pressure and vital signs.
23. Perform subgingival and supragingival scaling.
25. Apply sealants.
26. Apply topical anesthetic agents.
27. Deliver oral antibiotic prophylaxis as prescribed by a dentist.

(a) The patient is at least eighteen years of age;
(b) The patient has been examined by the delegating dentist within the previous twelve months;
(c) There has been no change in the patient's medical history since the last examination. If there has been a change in the patient's medical history within that time, the dental hygienist must consult with the dentist before administering local anesthetics;
(d) The delegating dentist who performed the examination has approved the patient for the administration of local anesthetics by a dental hygienist under general supervision and documented this approval in the patient's record;
(e) If any of the conditions in (a) through (d) of this subsection are not met, then close supervision is required.
(16)) (20) Sterilize equipment and disinfect operatories.
(21) Place retraction cord.
(22) Take impressions, bite registration, or digital scans of the teeth and jaws for:
(a) Diagnostic and opposing models;
(b) Fixed and removable orthodontic appliances, occlusal guards, bleaching trays, and fluoride trays; and
(c) Temporary indirect restorations such as temporary crowns.
(23) Take a facebow transfer for mounting study casts.
(24) Fabricate and deliver bleaching and fluoride trays.
(25) Fabricate, cement, and remove temporary crowns or temporary bridges.
(26) Place a temporary filling such as zinc oxide-eugenol or ZOE after diagnosis and examination by the dentist.
(27) Remove excess cement after the dentist has placed a permanent or temporary inlay, crown, bridge or appliance, or around orthodontic bands.
(28) Pack and medicate extraction areas.
(29) Place periodontal packs.
(30) Remove periodontal packs or sutures.
(31) Select denture shade and mold.
(32) Place and remove orthodontic separators.
(33) Select and fit orthodontic bands, try in fixed or removable orthodontic appliances prior to the dentist cementing or checking the appliance.