# ISSUED December, 1977

**REVISED May, 2006**

# SUPERSEDES Dental Hygienist (PD4503 & PD4505)

# TITLE Dental Hygienist CLASSIFICATION GRADE 06

#  SPECIALTY GRADE 50

### BASIC FUNCTION AND RESPONSIBILITY

Perform educational, therapeutic, preventive and diagnostic dental hygiene procedures delegated by and under the supervision of a licensed/permitted dentist.

#### CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Identify and evaluate factors which indicate the need to:

* Perform preventive oral prophylaxis for patients by removing plaque, calculus, and stains from exposed and unexposed surfaces of teeth by scaling and polishing teeth.
* Perform therapeutic periodontal scaling and root planning procedures by removing plaque, calculus and stain from root surfaces.
* Remove and polish hardened excess restorative material.
* Place antimicrobial agent beneath the gum margin to aid in management of periodontal diseases.

Apply desensitizing agents to teeth in the treatment of tooth hypersensitivity.

Administer local anesthesia as prescribed by the dentist.

Administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia, as prescribed by the dentist.

Apply fluoride to teeth to aid in the prevention of cavities.

Apply pit and fissure sealants.

Review and update medical and dental health histories.

Perform oral inspection including oral cancer screening.

Record dental and periodontal findings; test pulp vitality; analyze dietary surveys.

Make, develop and mount dental radiographs.

Advise and instruct patients on proper care of teeth and gums, proper diet for good dental health and the impact of tobacco use on oral health***.***

Conduct in-service dental health training sessions for staff, provide consultation and technical assistance.

Record present oral conditions and extent of hygiene treatment on dental chart to provide dentist with information for diagnosis and subsequent treatment when needed.

Maintain adequate inventory and care of dental materials, supplies, medicaments and instruments.

Perform other miscellaneous tasks as assigned by the dentist.

Maintain effective working relationships with faculty, staff, students and the public.

*In addition to the duties and responsibilities noted above, the position description must include statements from*[*UI Health Care Core Values (WECARE)*](https://uihc.org/mission-vision-and-core-values)*for Health Care positions or*[*Universal Competencies*](https://hr.uiowa.edu/careers/competencies/universal-competencies)*for all other positions.*

SUPERVISION RECEIVED

#### Direct supervision in the administration of local anesthesia and nitrous oxide analgesia.

General supervision for all other authorized services provided by a dental hygienist.

Public health supervision in nursing home or related facilities.

##### SUPERVISION EXERCISED

Functional supervision is exercised over dental hygiene students.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

A Bachelor of Science degree with an emphasis in Dental Hygiene or equivalent is required.

A license to practice dental hygiene in the State of Iowa is required.

Hygienists administering local anesthesia must hold a current local anesthesia permit issued by the State of Iowa.

Hygienists administering nitrous oxide must meet educational criteria in accordance with the rules of the Iowa Board of Dental Examiners.

Excellent written and verbal communication skills are required.