

Dental Hygiene Profession in Canada



Revised: June 2016

Regulation	3
Quality Assurance & Professional Liability Insurance	4
Dental Hygiene by the Numbers	5
Scope of Practice	6
Independent Practice	7

	Jurisdiction												
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
Regulatory Authority	College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia (CDHBC)	College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta (CRDHA)	Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists Association (SDHA)	College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM)	College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO)	Ordre des hygiénistes dentaires du Québec (OHDQ) (web site in French only)	New Brunswick College of Dental Hygienists / Ordre des hygiénistes dentaires du NB (NBCDH)	College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS)	Dental Council of Prince Edward Island (DCPEI) email: info@dcpei.ca	Newfoundland and Labrador College of Dental Hygienists (NLCDH)	Government of Yukon	Northwest Territories Professional Licensing Government of NWT	Department of Health Government of Nunavut email: bharvey@gov.nu.ca
Self-regulated	1995	1990	1998	2005	1994	1975	2009	2009	N/A Regulated under Dental Act	2010	N/A Regulated by government	N/A Regulated by government	N/A Regulated by government
Legislation online	Health Professions Act	Health Professions Act - Dental Hygienists Professional Regulation	Saskatchewan - The Dental Disciplines Act	Manitoba - The Dental Hygienists Act	Dental Hygiene Act	Code des professions (web site in French only)	An Act Respecting the New Brunswick College of Dental Hygienists	Nova Scotia - Dental Hygienists Act	PEI - Dental Profession Act	Dental Hygienists Regulations under the Health Regulations Act	Yukon - Dental Profession Act	NWT: Application for Dental Hygienists Registration	Dental Auxiliaries Act
CDHA Membership included with registration	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No

	Jurisdiction												
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
Quality Assurance Program	Quality Assurance Program	Continuing Competence Program	Continuing Competency Program	Continuing Competency Program	Quality Assurance Program	Politique de formation continue obligatoire (web site in French only)	Continuing Competencies and Education Program	Continuing Competency	Dental Profession Act	Continuing Education	No requirement	No requirement	No requirement
Mandatory Professional Liability Insurance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No requirement	No requirement	No requirement
Minimum Coverage Amount	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$3 million aggregate	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$2 million	\$1 million	No amount specified	N/A	N/A	N/A

Number of Dental Hygienists as of 2013¹

	Jurisdiction													Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	
Total no. of registered dental hygienists (represents all individuals who are registered with the provincial regulating body. Includes all registration categories active, inactive)	3,533	3,040	577	739	13,271	5,822	484	676	85	196	31	32	9	28,495

¹ Published by Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) April 2015

Number of Accredited Programs for Dental Hygiene Education as of April 2016²

	Jurisdiction													Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	
Accredited DH programs														
Public Institutions	5	1	1	1	12	7		1						28
Private Institutions	1				6		1							8
Total Number of Institutions														36

² https://www.cda-adc.ca/cdacweb/en/search_for_accredited_programs/search1.asp?lstProvince=0&optProgram=2

Level of Education Offered	Jurisdiction													Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	
Diploma	5	1	1	1	18	7	1	1						35
Degree	1	1 ³		1				1						4
Graduate Studies (dental hygiene)		1 ³												1

³ <http://uofa.ualberta.ca/news-and-events/newsarticles/2014/april/masters-program-gives-dental-hygiene-students-more-options>

Dental hygiene services include all interventions performed within the dental hygiene scope of practice directed toward attaining and maintaining optimal oral health for individuals and communities. In this context the Dental Hygiene Process of Care (ADPIE) is utilized to Assess, Diagnose, Plan, Implement and Evaluate policies, processes, interventions and outcomes. The utilization of each step, in progression, of the dental hygiene process of care, is essential to the safe and effective delivery of dental hygiene services and programs.

Generally accepted interventions, such as but not limited to, debridement, periodontal therapy, applications of antimicrobial and anticariogenic agents, stain removal, application of pit and fissure sealants and exposing of radiographs are universally provided by dental hygienists across the country. For a complete description of all dental hygiene services in Canada, please refer to the [CDHA National List of Service Codes](#).

The chart below represents additional services and procedures that are specific to certain provinces or territories. For clarification regarding the scope of practice in each jurisdiction, contact the appropriate regulatory authority.

Key Selected Service Variations

	Jurisdiction												
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
Local Anesthesia	√	√	√	√			√	√		√	√		
Myofunctional Therapy	√	√	√		√			√					
Nitrous Oxide		√								√			
Orthodontic procedures in conjunction with a dentist	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			
Placement of a permanent restorative material* e.g. Amalgam/composite resin; adapt and cement stainless steel crown in conjunction with a dentist		√	√	√	√	√		√		√			
Placement of a temporary restorative material independent of a dentist	√	√	√	√ (Includes Interim Stabilization Therapy)	√ (Includes Interim Stabilization Therapy)						√		
Order Radiographs	√	√	√				√	√					
Prescribing Authority		√											
Comments		http://www.crdha.ca/media/1478/restricted_activities_authorization_table_feb_2013.pdf		http://www.cdhm.info/legislation-resources/practice-guidelines/	http://www.cdho.org/for-the-public/dental-hygienists/scope-of-practice		http://www.nbcdh.ca/userfiles/file/Rules%20%20English-%20.pdf						

Independent Practice is defined as dental hygiene practice separate from and/or apart from the control/supervision of another health care profession.

	Jurisdiction												
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
Dental Hygiene Independent Practice Permitted	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes			
Terms used to describe independent practice	Limitations on Practice	Restricted Activities Authorization	Prohibitions Section	Supervision, Extended Practice, Approved Practice Settings and Programs	Self-Initiation		Scope of Practice	Self-directed clinical practice		Dental Hygienists Regulations			
See full text of terms	Regulations & Bylaws: Limitations on Practice	Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation	The Dental Disciplines Act	CDHM's Practice Guideline on Supervision	Standard for Authorization to Self-Initiate Profession-Specific Acts		New Brunswick Dental Hygienists Act	Dental Hygienists Act		Dental Hygienists Regulations			
Additional areas of relevance			See page 18				See definitions page 1	See definitions page 2					