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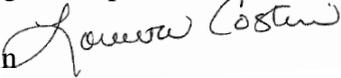
Loretta Costin, Chancellor
Division of Career and Adult Education



June 30, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Technical Center Directors
Florida College Occupational Deans

FROM: Loretta Costin 

SUBJECT: Licensed Dental Hygienist - Perform Remediable Tasks in Health Access Setting

The 2011 Florida Legislature passed House Bill 1319 amending section 466.024, Florida Statutes, Delegation of duties; expanded functions. The bill redefined the term “Health access setting” to include a school-based prevention program operated by an accredited dental hygiene program that offers preventative oral health services.

Further, the law says a licensed dental hygienist may, without supervision, apply fluorides; instruct a patient in oral hygiene care; supervise the oral hygiene care of a patient; and perform other services that do not involve diagnosis or treatment. In a health access setting, a licensed dental hygienist may:

- perform dental charting;
- measure and record blood pressure rate, pulse rate, respiration rate, and oral temperature;
- record a patient’s case history;
- apply topical fluorides, including fluoride varnishes, approved by ADA or the FDA;
- apply dental sealants; and
- with medical clearance, remove calculus deposits, accretions, and stains.

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The new law does not authorize a dental hygienist to perform root planning or gingival curettage without supervision by a dentist.

A licensed dental hygienist who performs any of these remediable tasks must provide the patient with the following disclaimer in writing before the procedure is performed:

“The services being offered are not a substitute for a comprehensive dental exam by a dentist.”

A licensed dental hygienist who performs these remediable tasks without supervision shall:

- Provide a dental referral in strict compliance with federal and state patient referral regulations
- Encourage the establishment of a dental home
- Maintain professional malpractice insurance for \$100,000 per occurrence and \$300,000 aggregate

Please contact the Florida Board of Dentistry for further information or you may call John McNeely at (850) 245-9028 or via e-mail to John.McNeely@fldoe.org.

Thank you.

LC/jmf

Cc: John McNeely, Workforce Education Liaison
Florida College System Council of Instructional Affairs