

# Oral Health Access Supervision Program (OHASP)

8-23-12



American  
Dental  
Hygienists'  
Association

# Oral Health Access Supervision Program (OHASP) Is it Right for You?

The Oral Health Access Supervision Program (OHASP) was created by the Ohio General Assembly in 2010. OHASP allows dental hygienists with additional required education to practice under relaxed supervision in certain designated underserved locations outside of the dental office without the presence of a dentist. The OHASP allows dentists and dental hygienists to reach out into traditionally underserved locations like nursing homes, schools in dental health resource shortage areas, Head Start programs, WIC clinics, and other locations to serve populations who may have had difficulty obtaining dental care.



With proper training and adherence to protocols, hygienists may enter these and other locations and treat patients prior to those patients being seen by a dentist. However, the authorizing dentist remains actively involved in patient care and assumes full responsibility for all care delivered. Dentists are required to review the health history of each patient prior to the provision of dental hygiene services to make certain that those services can be provided safely. Additionally, patients treated by a hygienist under the OHASP will have a subsequent appointment set with the dentist for the purposes of a diagnosis, treatment plan and the completion of additional dental procedures such as extractions, dental restorations, dentures and other necessary steps to achieve a patient's good oral health.

The state dental board is charged with oversight of the program and monitoring the progress of dentist and dental hygienist participants.

# Requirements for Practice as an OHASP Dentist



## Participation Requirements

Dentist seeking to participate in the OHASP and authorize a dental hygienist to offer services under his/her supervision must:

- Hold an active and valid dental license in the State of Ohio
- Obtain an OHASP permit (\$20) issued by the Ohio State Dental Board
- Work with eligible facilities to assess equipment needs, educate patients on the OHASP, facilitate records review and aid in scheduling of future appointments
- Assume responsibility for the care delivered by authorized hygienists
- Establish record-keeping system to comply with reporting requirements
- Work with malpractice carrier to ensure coverage for self and staff



## Settings

Eligible settings include, but are not limited to:

- Nursing homes
- State correctional institutions
- Head Start programs
- Residential care facilities for developmentally disabled adults
- Foster Homes
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- WIC Clinics
- VA Clinics and Hospitals
- Public and private schools located in DHRSAs



## Responsibilities of the Dentist

- Establish an employment or contract relationship with the authorized hygienist
- Authorize, in writing, the hygienist to provide services to patients at an eligible facility
- Notify the eligible facility that no dentist will be onsite during the provision of dental care and that the hygienist is not authorized to diagnose a patient's oral health status
- Notify the eligible facility that, except during certain circumstances, the hygienist may not provide subsequent services until the patient has received a clinical evaluation from a dentist
- Review the patient's medical and dental health history within 30 days prior to the provision of hygiene services to determine those services may be provided safely
- Establish written protocols for the authorized hygienist and ensure the provision of hygiene services complies with the law
- Work with the authorized hygienist to schedule the patient for a clinical evaluation and other necessary services within 90 days
- Provide clinical evaluation and other treatment for patients

# Requirements for Practice as an OHASP Hygienist



## Educational & Experiential Requirements

- Must have 2 years AND 3,000 hours of clinical practice
- Must have 24 hrs. of continuing education credit in the past 2 yrs.
- Must show evidence of completion of an 8 hour OHASP CE course
- Must show successful completion of a 4 hour medical emergencies CE course within 2 yrs. of applying for OHASP permit
- Apply for OHASP permit (\$20)



## Settings (Non-dental office settings)

Eligible settings include, but are not limited to:

- Nursing homes
- State correctional institutions
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Domestic Violence Shelters
- Head Start programs
- WIC Clinics
- Residential care facilities for developmentally disabled adults
- VA Clinics and Hospitals
- Public and private schools located in DHRSA's
- Foster Homes



## Services

Hygienists may provide those prophylactic, preventive and other procedures dentists are authorized to assign to them under Ohio law without the dentist physically present (i.e. general supervision).

**Hygienists may provide:** prophylaxis; polishing; sealants; charting; elastomeric impressions for diagnostic models; caries susceptibility testing; oral hygiene instruction; application of topical anesthetics; fluoride; periodontal dressings; and all non-invasive supportive services and procedures necessary to the gathering and maintaining of accurate and complete medical and dental history of the patient among other procedures.

**Hygienists may not provide:** administration of local anesthetic or nitrous oxide; monitoring of nitrous oxide; definitive root planing; definitive subgingival curettage; sulcular placement of prescribed materials; pulp testing; rubber dam placement; application of cavity varnish; placement of medication in pulp chambers; impression, fabrication, cementation and removal of provisional restorations; and other procedures.

# Valuable Resources



## **Ohio Department of Health**

[www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/ohs/oral/safetynet/dhpsa1.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/ohs/oral/safetynet/dhpsa1.aspx)

## **Ohio Provider Resource Association**

[www.opra.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Interactive\\_Map&category=Main&link=Interactive\\_Map](http://www.opra.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=Interactive_Map&category=Main&link=Interactive_Map)

## **Ohio Association of Community Health Centers**

[m360.ohiochc.org/frontend/search.aspx?cs=635](http://m360.ohiochc.org/frontend/search.aspx?cs=635)

## **Ohio Dental Association**

[www.oda.org/](http://www.oda.org/)

## **Ohio Dental Hygienists' Association**

[odha.net/](http://odha.net/)

## **Association of Health Commissioners**

[aohc.net/](http://aohc.net/)

## **Women, Infant, Children (WIC) Clinics**

[www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/ns/wicn/wic1.aspx](http://www.odh.ohio.gov/odhPrograms/ns/wicn/wic1.aspx)

## **List of Ohio Public Schools**

[ohio.educationbug.org/public-schools/](http://ohio.educationbug.org/public-schools/)

## **List of Domestic Violence Shelters**

[www.odvn.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=78:ohio-shelter-a-program-referral-list&catid=173:ohio-shelter-and-program-referral-list&Itemid=39](http://www.odvn.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=78:ohio-shelter-a-program-referral-list&catid=173:ohio-shelter-and-program-referral-list&Itemid=39)

## **Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO)**

[cohhio.org/](http://cohhio.org/)

# Practice in Oral Health Access Supervision Program

## What Else Do I Need to Know?

### Statutes & Rules

**State Program Practice Act**  
ORC 4715.36 – 4715.375

[codes.ohio.gov/orc/4715](http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/4715)

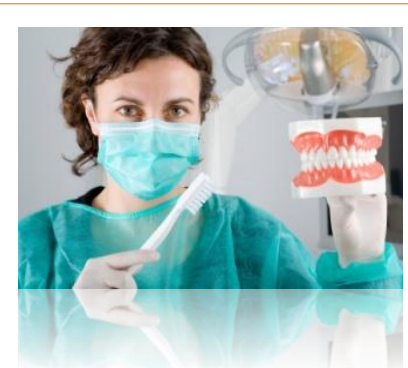
**Dental Board Rules**  
4715-9-06  
and 4715-9-06.1,  
4715-10-01 – 4715-10-04.1

[codes.ohio.gov/oac/4715](http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4715)

### Applicable Forms

**Link to Applications  
and Forms**  
[dental.ohio.gov/forms.stm](http://dental.ohio.gov/forms.stm)

**OSDB website**  
[dental.ohio.gov/](http://dental.ohio.gov/)





# Business Considerations



- A dental hygienist working in the OHASP must be employed by, or under contract with, one of the following:
  1. the authorizing dentist;
  2. a dentist who is the authorizing dentist's employer or owner of dental practice; or
  3. a government entity that employs the dental hygienist to provide dental hygiene services.
- A dentist may employ three hygienists working under OHASP in addition to those hygienists working in the office setting
- Billing for services provided under the OHASP is consistent with the current operations of a dental practice (private pay, insurance, Medicaid, etc.)
- Be prepared to discuss additional arrangements with eligible facilities regarding financial arrangements, provision of equipment and other matters



# Insurance & Liability



## **Why you need professional liability insurance!**

Dentist and dental hygienist participants in the OHASP should strongly consider obtaining or verifying malpractice liability coverage for patient care delivered under the OHASP. Professional liability insurance coverage is generally restricted to matters relating to patient care and will not cover loss or damage to equipment, general negligence issues or other matters. Dentists may want to consider obtaining additional general liability coverage to address these concerns.

## **Liability Insurance Links**

American Dental Hygienists Association offers information at [www.personal-plans.com/adha/welcome.do](http://www.personal-plans.com/adha/welcome.do)

Ohio Dental Association Services Corp. offers information at [www.oda.org/membership/benefits/services/services](http://www.oda.org/membership/benefits/services/services)





# Tips for Getting Started



1. Get a permit from the Ohio State Dental Board
2. Consult OSDB website for list of permit holders [www.dental.ohio.gov/ohas.pdf](http://www.dental.ohio.gov/ohas.pdf)
3. Contact and partner with another OHASP permit holder.
4. Develop a plan with OHASP permit holders that set goals for participation, identify target populations and facilities
5. Create a “welcome packet” (see next slide)
6. Identify and contact potential facilities
7. Serve patients and report results



# Sample Welcome Packet



**Facility “Welcome Packets” should include, at a minimum the following:**

- Letter introducing dentist(s), dental hygienist(s) and an overview of OHASP
- Consent forms(if patient population is under 18 or has guardian)
- Template letter for patients and guardians from facility regarding OHASP
- Outline of the types of services to be provided
- Outline for follow-up procedure and future appointments
- Feel free to customize your packet as needed



## More Information



### Ohio Dental Association

[www.oda.org](http://www.oda.org)

(800) 282-1526



American  
Dental  
Hygienists'  
Association

*Ohio*

### Ohio Dental Hygienists Association

[www.odha.net](http://www.odha.net)