

GENERAL SUPERVISION FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS

1. The enabling statute must be placed under La. R.S. 37:766.

La. R.S. 37:766 Hygienists, employment; operations limited

A. Any Louisiana licensed dentist of good standing, public institution, or school authority may employ a licensed hygienist who may perform such duties as may be authorized by the board. A registered dental hygienist may operate **under a licensed Louisiana dentist's direct or general supervision as those terms are defined in the Louisiana Administrative Code (Title 46 - Professional and Occupational Standards - Part XXXIII Dental Health Professionals-Rule 108)**. The licensed hygienist shall be responsible for providing notification to the board of the name and location of his employer.

2. The following rules have been suggested.

****B. Under general supervision, a dental hygienist may provide to patients of record, for not more than five (5) consecutive business days, all dental hygiene services (except local anesthesia and root planing which must be under direct supervision) if all of the following conditions are satisfied:**

- (1) The dental hygienist has at least three (3) years, or an equivalent amount of experience, in the practice of dental hygiene;**
- (2) The dental hygienist has current CPR certification and complies with the established protocols for emergencies which the supervising dentist has established;**
- (3) The supervising dentist has examined the patient of record not more than nine (9) months prior to the date that the dental hygienist provides the dental hygiene services;**
- (4) The dental hygienist provides dental hygiene services to the patient of record in accordance with a written treatment protocol prescribed by the supervising dentist for the patient;**
- (5) The patient of record is notified in advance of the appointment that the supervising dentist will be absent from the location;**
- (6) No licensed dental hygienist, under general supervision, may delegate or supervise any dental hygiene duties for an expanded duty dental assistant; and,**
- (7) The dentist is responsible for all actions of the dental hygienist during treatment of patients under general supervision.**

B. The following limitations also apply to the practice of dental hygiene under general supervision:

- (1) No entity other than a public institution or school supervised by a Louisiana licensed dentist, or an office owned by a dentist or group of dentists licensed in Louisiana, may employ dental hygienists to provide treatment for patients of record under general supervision.**
- (2) No duly licensed and registered dentist shall supervise more than two (2) dental hygienists under general supervision at any one time.**
- (3) No duly licensed and registered dentist shall supervise a dental hygienist for more than five (5) consecutive business days or for more than twenty total (20)* days in any calendar year.**
- (4) No patient can be seen twice consecutively under general supervision.**
- (5) An examination fee must not be charged if a patient is seen under general supervision.**
- (6) No person shall practice dental hygiene in a manner which is separate or independent from a supervising dentist, or establish or maintain an office or a practice that is primarily devoted to providing dental hygiene services.**