

Note: At the national level, a group called CODA (the Commission on Dental Accreditation), is in the process of revising the criteria for accreditation of dental hygiene curriculum. Hygiene curriculum requirements are being revised to eliminate references to the term "diagnosis," which had been used only in academic contexts to this point. The American Dental Association strongly supports this revision, which has a strong likelihood of passing this summer. Thus, in the near future, there is a strong possibility that "diagnosis" will no longer be taught in accredited hygiene programs. It seems that adding the term "diagnosis" into statute is preliminary when national curriculum changes could mean that, as soon as next year, hygienists will no longer be taught to "diagnose" and the statute would need to be amended again to reflect this change. A copy of the proposed changes is provided below.

Open Hearing  
ADA Annual Session  
Appendix 3

COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION

PROPOSED STANDARDS REVISION

Accreditation Standards for Dental Hygiene Education Programs

Proposed revisions to the term "dental hygiene diagnosis" in Standard 2-17  
Additions are underlined and deletions have ~~strikethrough~~.

**2-17 Graduates must be competent in providing the dental hygiene process of care which includes:**

- a) Comprehensive collection of patient data to identify the physical and oral health status;
- b) Analysis of assessment findings and use of critical thinking in order to address the patient's dental hygiene treatment needs;
- c) Establishment of realistic goals and treatment strategies to facilitate optimal oral health;
- d) Provision of patient-centered treatment and evidence-based care in a manner minimizing risks and optimizing oral health;
- e) Measurement of the extent to which goals identified in the dental hygiene treatment ~~plan~~ needs are achieved;
- f) Complete and accurate recording of collected data; treatment planned, accomplished and to be provided; recommendations, and other information relevant to patient care and treatment.

**Assessment**

~~The systematic collection and analysis of the following data to identify patient needs and oral health problems.~~

- a) ~~medical and dental histories~~
- b) ~~vital signs~~
- e) ~~extra/intra-oral examination~~
- d) ~~periodontal and dental examination~~
- e) ~~radiographs~~
- f) ~~indices~~
- g) ~~risk assessments (i.e., tobacco, systemic, caries)~~

### **Planning**

The establishment of realistic goals and treatment strategies to facilitate optimal oral health.

- a) dental hygiene diagnosis
- b) dental hygiene treatment plan
- c) informed consent
- d) dental hygiene case presentation

### **Implementation**

Provision of treatment as identified in the assessment and planning phase.

- a) infection control
- b) periodontal debridement and scaling
- c) pain management
- d) application of chemotherapeutic agents
- e) fluoride therapy
- f) application of pit and fissure sealants
- g) selective polishing
- h) care of oral prostheses
- i) care and maintenance of restorations
- j) health education and preventive counseling
- k) nutritional counseling related to oral and systemic health

### **Evaluation**

Measurement of the extent to which goals identified in the treatment plan were achieved.

- a) indices
- b) reevaluation of oral and periodontal health status
- c) subsequent treatment needs
- d) continuing care (recall)
- e) referral
- f) patient satisfaction

### **Documentation**

The complete and accurate recording of the patient's information and interactions, assessment data, treatment and treatment outcomes.

Examples of evidence to demonstrate compliance may include:

- Program clinical and radiographic experiences
- Patient tracking data for enrolled and past students
- Policies regarding selection of patients and assignment of procedures
- Monitoring or tracking system protocols
- Clinical evaluation system policy and procedures demonstrating student competencies
- Assessment instruments
- Evidence-based treatment strategies
- Appropriate documentation