



Why Does Scope of Practice Matter?

About Dental Hygiene Scope of Practice (SOP)

- Professional SOP describes the services that a dental hygienist is trained, competent, and legally authorized to perform
- Legal SOP is determined by state-specific practice acts, which outline the procedures dental hygienists can provide, the required level of supervision, and the settings in which they may practice



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Benefits of a Broad State Dental Hygiene SOP



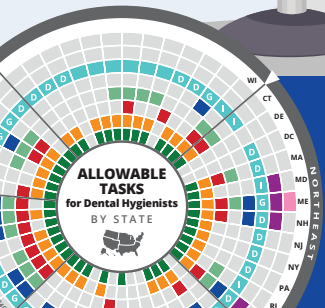
Dental hygienists can practice to the full extent of their training and provide:

- Services based on their professional judgment without requiring specific authorization from a dentist
- A wider range of preventive and therapeutic services
- Care with reduced supervision in expanded settings such as schools, hospitals, community health centers, federally qualified health centers, and nursing homes



Enhances access to dental care, especially in underserved areas:

- Improves efficiency: more patients receive essential oral health services
- Supports cost-effective care in community-based settings
- Optimizes workforce utilization: frees up dentists to focus on complex procedures
- Improves oral health outcomes: through timely preventive and basic restorative care



Discover the allowable tasks for dental hygienists in your state: [CLICK HERE](#)



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