



Missouri

What is Collaborative Practice for Dental Hygienists?

- Dental hygiene collaborative practice is a form of direct access that allows a dental hygienist in a “collaborative agreement” with a dentist to see, evaluate, and provide preventive dental hygiene services to patients without the prior examination or authorization of the dentist.
- Dental hygiene collaborative practice began in NM in 1999, inspired by the nursing model of collaborative practice.
- Allows for direct access to patients by the RDH.
- The RDH may see, evaluate, and provide certain treatments to patients without the prior examination or authorization of the dentist.
- Dentist still has involvement based on the terms of the agreement.
- The basic element of collaborative practice is a written agreement between the RDH and a dentist that typically includes the following:
 - A protocol governing the circumstances in which the RDH can initiate treatment
 - Description of allowed services
 - Practice protocols
 - The responsibilities of the collaborating dentist concerning consultation with the RDH
 - Record maintenance
 - Emergency management plan
 - Referral procedures
- A dentist may collaborate with more than one RDH or the RDH may collaborate with more than one dentist.
- Typically collaborative RDH would see patients in some type of public or institutional setting.
- Varies depending on each state in accordance with the practice act.
- Five states actually call it Collaborative Practice
 - Alaska
 - Arkansas (Collaborative Practice Permit)
 - Minnesota

- New Mexico
- New York (RDH-CP)

Thirteen states have variations (different names) of Collaborative Practice

- Arizona (Affiliated Practice)
- Iowa (Public Health Dental Hygienist)
- Kansas (Extended Care Permits I, II, and III)
- Massachusetts (Public Health Dental Hygienist)
- Maryland (General Supervision) in long-term care facilities
- Michigan (PA 161)
- Ohio (Oral Health Access Supervision Permit Program)
- South Dakota Collaborative Supervision)
- Tennessee (Written Protocol)
- Vermont (General Supervision Agreement)
- Virginia (Remote Supervision) Pilot Program
- Washington (Off-site Supervision) for nursing homes
- West Virginia (Public Health Dental Hygienist)

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Additional Resources from Minnesota on how collaborative practice works:

See: <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/mn/collaborative-practice/cdhp/05.php>
<http://www.normandale.edu/dental-hygiene/dental-hygiene-practice.html>