



**What is Extended Access by Dental Hygienists?** Dental hygiene **extended access** requires a written agreement between a partnering Missouri licensed dentist and an experienced Missouri licensed dental hygienist so the dental hygienist can provide currently allowed preventive dental hygiene services directly to patients at sites beyond the dental office setting to increase access to the 50% of Missourians who do not have enough dental providers near their homes. **There is NO expansion of the current dental hygiene practice act and it is only an option if the dentist chooses to utilize it.**

**What does this bill allow?**

- The dental hygienist may provide currently allowed designated services to patients without the prior examination or presence of the dentist. The exam component will be addressed in the agreement.
- Services allowed:
  1. Dental hygiene-focused assessment
  2. Scaling and polishing
  3. Periodontal root planning/debridement
  4. Non-surgical periodontal procedures (placing dressings and removing dressings/removing sutures)
  5. Dental radiographs
  6. Dental sealants
  7. Topical fluoride
  8. Services a chairside dental assistant can perform
  9. Other procedures approved by the Missouri Dental Board
- The dentist will still maintain involvement based on the terms of the written agreement
- The dentist will need to examine patient after 12 months of dental hygiene treatment
- The basic elements of the extended access agreement will include the following:
  1. Protocols governing the circumstances in which the dental hygienists can initiate and give treatment
  2. Description of allowed services
  3. Consulting responsibilities of the partnering dentist with the dental hygienist
  4. Record maintenance
  5. Emergency management plan
  6. Mileage requirement (within 60 miles from dentist)
  7. Referral procedure
- Missouri Dental Board must issue an Extended Access Permit
- No more than three extended access written agreements are allowed by either dentists or hygienists
- An annual exam by the dentist is required
- Professional liability insurance and additional updated courses for the dental hygienist will be required