

Access to Dental Hygiene Care in Public Health Settings in Missouri

2014



Authorizing Legislation

In 2001, bills (SB393/HB 567) were passed by the Missouri legislature that would allow dental hygienists to provide certain preventive services in public health settings to needy children without the supervision of a dentist.

Language in the Missouri Practice Act

Section 332.311 RSMo-Missouri Practice Act

2. A duly registered and currently licensed dental hygienist who has been in practice at least three years and who is practicing in a public health setting may provide fluoride treatments, teeth cleaning and sealants, if appropriate, to children who are eligible for medical assistance, pursuant to chapter 208, RSMo, without the supervision of a dentist.

Language in the Missouri Practice Act

Medicaid shall reimburse any eligible provider who provides fluoride treatments, teeth cleaning and sealants to eligible children. Those public health settings in which a dental hygienist may practice without the supervision of a dentist shall be established jointly by the department of health and senior services and by the Missouri dental board by rule.

(L. 1969 S.B. 97, A.L. 1997, S.B. 141, A.L. 2001, H.B. 567 merged with S.B. 393, A. L. 2006, S. B. 828)

<http://www.moga.mo.gov/statutes/C300-399/3320000311.HTM>

Rules Implementing the Law

Rules were jointly written by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the Missouri Dental Board to define the **public health settings** in which dental hygienists may practice.

Public Health Settings Defined

Public health setting shall be defined as a location where dental services authorized by Section 332.311 RSMo are performed so long as the delivery of services are sponsored by a governmental entity which includes:

- Department of Health and Senior Services;
- A county health department;
- A city health department operating under a city charter;
- A combined city/county health; department; and

Public Health Settings Defined

A nonprofit community health center qualified as exempt from federal taxation under section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code including a community health center that receives funding authorized by sections 329, 330, 340 of the United States Public Health Services Act.

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/20csr/20c2110-2.pdf>

Other Provisions

The Missouri Dental Board created a second rule which mandates what **equipment** dental hygienists must use in public health settings.

Required Equipment in Public Health Settings

- Compressed air
- Focus lighting
- Vacuum
- Appropriate equipment to clean tooth surfaces and place sealants
- Emergency response kit without oxygen

Other Provisions

Dental hygienists must comply with OSHA and CDC guidelines while rendering dental hygiene services.

The Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) has portable equipment for the dental hygienists to borrow in various locations in the state. Consult your local oral health consultant. <http://health.mo.gov/blogs/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/OHCRegionsMap.pdf>

Populations Affected By This Law

Those who can be treated are children in the Medicaid fee-for service (MC+) and managed care program and those children eligible for the state of Missouri's Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIPS).

Only children 20 years or under may be treated by dental hygienists, depending on the program.

Becoming a Medicaid Provider

Information from Mo HealthNet will be added to direct dental hygienists how to apply to become Medicaid providers.

Each provider will first need to get a National Provider Number (NPI).

Go to:

<https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/StaticForward.do?forward=static.npistart>