

<b>ANDERSON VALLEY HEALTH CENTER POLICIES AND PROCEDURES</b>		<b>Page 1 of 1</b>
		<b>Category:</b>
		<b>Department:</b> Dental
		<b>Policy ID:</b> PC-DE-036
		<b>Board Approval Date:</b> September 2, 2021
<b>Title:</b> Dental Hygienist Description		
<b>Responsibility/Authority:</b> Executive Director		<b>Next Review Date:</b> August, 2024
<b>SIGNATURES</b>		
<b>Executive Director:</b>  Chloe Guazzone	<b>Medical Director:</b>  Cindy Novella,FNP	<b>Board President:</b>  Ric Bonner

**PURPOSE AND SCOPE:** To provide guidelines and a scope of work to staff working as a dental hygienist at AVHC.

**POLICY:** AVHC licensed providers work within their scope of practice. Support staff work under the clinical supervision of a dentist even when there are some procedures that may be performed independently.

**PROCEDURE(S):** This is a description of what a dental hygienist can do within the dental office:

Under the direct supervision of the Dental Director in a clinical setting and using established dental hygiene protocols and procedures, the dental hygienist provides professional, high-quality dental care and education to a broad range of patients including children, adolescents, and adults.

- Provides high-quality dental hygiene care within the scope of service consistent with accepted standards of care.
- Evaluates patients and implements educated treatment regimens under the supervision of the Dentist.
- Provides complete documentation of all findings, treatments, and outcomes.
- Initiates and implements oral health education and prevention.
- Reviews and interprets patient dental records.
- Works cooperatively with other dental staff and provides training for dental assistants.

- Helps out where needed to ensure smooth, efficient running of dental schedule and team.
- Assesses dental conditions and risk, uses patient screening procedures, including medical history review, dental charting, and perio-charting; takes patient vital signs as required.
- Delivers direct patient care to patients as assigned, using established dental hygienist procedures, such as cleaning, polishing, x-rays, application of sealants, fluorides and varnishes and related procedures. All patients seen by a dental hygienist must be verified and signed off by the dental provider.
- Develops and implements individualized dental care plans for patients; performs patient education and risk protocols, discharge planning, and patient/family teaching under the supervision of a dentist.
- Provides chair-side assistance to the dentist in the performance of special tests, procedures and complex treatments.
- Makes impressions of patients' teeth for study casts.
- Assumes responsibility for the upkeep of the dental operatory and equipment.

Original Date	Review Date(s)	Revision Date(s)
2015	2021	