

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA CLASS SPECIFICATION

Class Title: Dental Hygienist

Class Code: 50690

Pay Grade: GI

A. Purpose:

Provides oral health and dental hygiene for individuals and oral education for individuals and staff of the facility.

B. Distinguishing Feature:

Dental Hygienist carries out the treatment plan prescribed by the dentists. The incumbent selects the appropriate technique for application of cavity-preventive agents, for exposure and processing of X-rays and for taking impressions. The incumbent designs individual oral hygiene regimens for individuals.

C. Functions:

(These are examples only; any one position may not include all of the listed examples nor do the listed examples include all functions that may be found in positions of this class.)

1. Removes calculus, stain and plaque from teeth, using prescribed techniques to ensure clients' oral hygiene needs are met.
2. Applies cavity-preventative agents to clients' teeth to aid in the prevention of future dental problems.
3. Exposes and processes dental X-rays to ensure dental problems are detected so that remedial treatment may be done.
4. Takes impressions of teeth and makes study models to ensure each individual's dental needs are met.
5. Designs individualized oral hygiene regimens for clients to provide daily plaque control and education regarding oral hygiene.
6. Records results of dental hygiene treatments for each individual to provide the interdisciplinary team with review information.
7. Performs other work as assigned.

D. Reporting Relationships:

Typically no subordinates report to this position.

E. Challenges and Problems:

Challenged to make people realize how important oral hygiene is for the individuals and making the individuals understand the purpose of the various procedures.

Typical problems include working with individuals who have physical or mental disabilities and behavior problems that make it difficult to work in their mouths.

F. Decision-making Authority:

Decisions made include what instruments, equipment and materials are needed for each dental procedure; selection of appropriate technique for application of cavity-preventative agents; and designing individualized oral hygiene regimens.

Decisions referred include diagnosis of dental problems and prescribing treatment plans.

G. Contact with Others:

Daily contact with the dentist for instructions and with individuals and staff to give services and education in the care of the teeth.

H. Working Conditions:

Handles sharp, contaminated instruments and risk exposure to communicable diseases. The incumbent provides support and wheelchair transfer for handicapped patients, and work on individuals with unpredictable behavior.

I. Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

Knowledge of:

- the principles and techniques of oral hygiene, dental prophylaxis, dental examination, and nutrition;
- the usage, operations, and care of materials and instruments commonly used in the dental profession;
- anatomy and physiology as it pertains to the oral cavity and related parts.

Ability to:

- establish and maintain effective relationships with patients, coworkers, and professional staff;
- explain the fundamentals of dental care and oral hygiene to patients;
- maintain records and prepare reports;
- handle dental instruments and materials carefully and safely;
- follow diagnosis and treatment plan described by a dentist.

J. Licenses and Certification:

Must be or eligible to be licensed by the State Board of Dental Examiners.