



State of New Mexico
Classification Description

REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENIST

General Summary

The Dental Hygienist performs clinical oral health care in examining, cleaning, and instructing on the general care of the teeth. Work in this classification may involve coordinating and participating in the planning, development, implementation and evaluation of dental health education and preventative dentistry programs for education and community groups. Employees provide consultation in dental hygiene to various schools, civic and community organizations, nursing homes, local health departments, and community institutions.

Registered Dental Hygienist

Jobcode: HDHY20

Pay Band: HI

FLSA Status: FLSA status may be determined to be different at the agency level based on the agency's utilization of the position.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Within the defined scope of practice, the Registered Dental Hygienist provides clinical, consultative, and specialized dental hygiene services to patients. May supervise or direct the work of Dental Assistants.

Recommended Education and Experience for Full Performance

Associate's Degree in Dental Hygiene from an accredited Dental Hygiene program and four (4) years of experience as it pertains to the essential duties and responsibilities of the classification. Must be licensed by the New Mexico Dental Health Care Board.

Minimum Qualifications

Associate's Degree in Dental Hygiene from an accredited Dental Hygiene program. Must be licensed by the New Mexico Dental Health Care Board.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities*

Performs clinical dental hygienist services for clients. Partners and promotes the importance of oral health and general health so the incidence of tooth decay and related diseases are reduced among children and adults.

- Independently screens patients, reviews medical and dental histories, documents patients' oral hygiene status and maintains dental records.
- Assesses patient's oral health and applies preventive modalities, reviews medical and dental histories, documents patient oral hygiene status and maintains oral health records.
- Makes recommendations for treatment to dentist as needed.
- Remove soft and hard deposits, examine gums, hand and rotary tools.
- Instructs, monitors, and provides oral health promotion and disease prevention modalities.
- Applies topical fluorides, dental sealants and other therapeutic agents, performs dental prophylaxis in the prevention of dental disease.
- May oversee the duties performed by the Dental Assistant.
- Provides direction to other auxiliary team members.
- May report metrics to school administration groups, including rates on student participation, number of students receiving dental sealants/fluoride varnish, and the numbers of students in need of treatment services.

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Statutory Requirements: Statutory requirements for individual positions in this classification will vary based on each agency's utilization, essential functions and the recruitment needs at the time a vacancy is posted including. It is the hiring Agencies responsibility to ensure the appropriate licenses/certifications are obtained for each position.

Conditions of Employment: Conditions of employment for individual positions in this classification will vary based on each agency's utilization, essential functions and the recruitment needs at the time a vacancy is posted.

Working Conditions: Working Conditions for individual positions in this classification will vary based on each agency's utilization, essential functions and the recruitment needs at the time a vacancy is posted. All requirements are subject to possible modification to reasonably accommodate individuals with disabilities.

Established: 10/18/2019

Revised:

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities are intended to be cumulative for each progressively higher level of work. The omission of specific statements does not preclude management from assigning other duties which are reasonably within the scope of duties. Classification description subject to change. Please refer to SPO website (www.spo.state.nm.us) to ensure this represents the most current copy of the position.*

*** Supervisor must supervise two (2) or more full-time positions.*