

Chapter: 30

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Topic: Collaborative dental hygiene and dental assisting practice

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Overview

Collaborative dental practice agreements between licensed dentists and dental hygienists authorize dental hygienists employed by a health care facility, program, or nonprofit organization to perform certain dental services without an initial examination by a dentist. This act modifies and clarifies some of the requirements for dental hygienist collaborative practice. The bill also expands collaborative dental practice to include dental assistants, under specific circumstances and for listed services.

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- 1 Collaborative practice authorization for dental hygienists in community settings.** Amends § 150A.10, subd. 1a. Modifies requirements for dental hygienists to engage in collaborative practice in community settings, removing hour requirements and specific CPR certification, and requiring completion of medical emergency course within continuing education cycle.

Removes list of specific authorized services, instead inserting a cross-reference to Minnesota Rules, part 3100.8700, subpart 1.

Specifies recordkeeping procedures and process for making referrals for additional dental services.

Modifies limitation in “health care facility, program, or nonprofit organization” definition.

Modifies definition of “collaborative agreement.”
- 2 Collaborative practice authorization for dental assistants in community settings.** Adds subd. 2a to § 150A.10. Paragraph (a) allows for a dental assistant employed by a health care facility, program, or organization to perform dental assisting services without the patient being first examined by a dentist, without a dentist’s diagnosis or treatment plan, and without a dentist being present, if:

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- (1) the dental assistant has entered into a collaborative agreement with a dentist, which authorizes dental assistant services; and
- (2) the dental assistant has completed a medical emergency course within each continuing education cycle.

Paragraph (b) lists the services a dental assistant may perform under general supervision (without the dentist being present) of a collaborating dentist, including:

- (1) oral health promotion and education;
- (2) taking vital signs;
- (3) obtaining informed consent;
- (4) applying topical preventative agents;
- (5) performing mechanical polishing to clinical crowns;
- (6) completing preliminary charting of the oral cavity and surrounding structures (except periodontal services);
- (7) taking photographs; and
- (8) taking radiographs.

Paragraph (c) requires a collaborating dentist to be licensed, and specifies that a dentist may not enter into a collaborative agreement with more than two dental assistants.

3 **Definitions.** Amends § 150A.105, subd. 8. Corrects cross-reference.