

oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry

Oral Healthcare Provider Licensed to Practice Dentistry: Understanding Their Role and Importance

Oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry is a term that encompasses the professionals dedicated to maintaining and improving our oral health. These licensed individuals are not just tooth fixers; they are essential healthcare providers who play a crucial role in our overall well-being. Whether you visit for a routine cleaning, a complex procedure, or preventive advice, understanding who these providers are and what they do can help you make informed decisions about your dental care.

Who Is an Oral Healthcare Provider Licensed to Practice Dentistry?

An oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry is a professional who has undergone rigorous education, training, and certification to diagnose, treat, and prevent diseases and conditions affecting the teeth, gums, and mouth. The most common type of licensed oral healthcare provider is the general dentist, but this category also includes specialists such as orthodontists, periodontists, endodontists, and oral surgeons.

Education and Licensing Requirements

Becoming an oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry requires many years of study. Typically, this involves:

- Completing a bachelor's degree, often with a focus on sciences.
- Attending an accredited dental school for a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree, which usually takes four years.
- Passing national and state licensing examinations to legally practice dentistry.
- Participating in continuing education to stay updated with the latest advancements in oral health care.

This extensive training ensures that licensed dentists are equipped to handle a wide array of dental issues safely and effectively.

The Scope of Practice for Licensed Dental Providers

The scope of practice for an oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry is broad, encompassing preventive, restorative, and surgical care. Their responsibilities go beyond filling cavities or extracting teeth; they focus on comprehensive oral health management.

Preventive Care and Patient Education

One of the most important roles of a dental provider is preventive care. Licensed dentists perform routine cleanings, oral exams, and screenings for oral cancer and other diseases. They provide personalized advice on oral hygiene practices, diet, and habits that can impact oral health, such as smoking cessation.

Educating patients about the importance of flossing, brushing techniques, and the effects of sugar on teeth is vital in reducing the risk of cavities and gum disease. This proactive approach helps patients maintain healthy smiles and avoid more extensive treatments in the future.

Restorative and Cosmetic Procedures

When oral health issues arise, oral healthcare providers licensed to practice dentistry offer a range of restorative treatments. These include fillings, crowns, bridges, root canals, and dentures. They also perform cosmetic procedures such as teeth whitening, veneers, and orthodontic treatments to improve both function and appearance.

Each treatment plan is tailored to the individual's needs, with consideration given to the patient's overall health, aesthetic goals, and budget.

Oral Surgery and Specialty Care

Some dentists specialize in oral surgery or other focused fields, providing advanced care such as wisdom tooth extractions, dental implants, and treatment of oral diseases. These specialists often collaborate with other healthcare providers to manage complex cases involving the jaw, face, or oral tissues.

Why Choosing a Licensed Oral Healthcare Provider Matters

Opting for an oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry is crucial for your safety and the quality of care you receive. Licensing ensures that the dentist has met stringent academic and professional standards. It also means they adhere to ethical guidelines and are accountable to regulatory bodies.

Quality Assurance and Patient Safety

Licensed dentists must follow evidence-based practices and maintain high standards of hygiene and patient safety. This reduces the risk of complications such as infections or improper treatments. Additionally, licensed providers have access to the latest technology and materials that can improve treatment outcomes.

Trust and Professional Accountability

When you choose a licensed oral healthcare provider, you can trust that they are qualified and that there are mechanisms in place if something goes wrong. Many states have dental boards that oversee licensing, investigate complaints, and enforce disciplinary actions when necessary.

How to Find the Right Oral Healthcare Provider Licensed to Practice Dentistry

Finding a dental provider who meets your needs involves more than just verifying their license. Here are some tips to help you choose the right professional:

- **Check Credentials:** Confirm that the dentist is licensed in your state and has no history of disciplinary actions.
- **Consider Specializations:** If you need specific care like orthodontics or periodontics, look for specialists with the appropriate training.
- **Read Reviews and Ask for Recommendations:** Patient experiences can provide insight into the provider's communication style, office environment, and quality of care.
- **Evaluate Convenience:** Location, office hours, and insurance acceptance are practical factors to consider.
- **Schedule a Consultation:** Meeting the dentist can help you assess how comfortable you feel and whether your questions are answered thoroughly.

Building a Long-Term Relationship

Establishing trust and comfort with your oral healthcare provider can lead to better health outcomes. A licensed dentist who understands your medical history and oral health goals is better equipped to provide personalized care and detect early signs of problems.

The Future of Oral Healthcare Providers Licensed to Practice Dentistry

The field of dentistry continues to evolve with advances in technology, materials, and treatment methods. Licensed oral healthcare providers are increasingly incorporating digital tools such as 3D imaging, CAD/CAM restorations, and laser dentistry to enhance precision and patient comfort.

There is also a growing emphasis on holistic and preventive approaches, recognizing the connection between oral health and systemic conditions like diabetes and heart disease. This shift underscores the importance of choosing a knowledgeable and licensed dental provider who stays current with emerging trends.

In essence, an oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry is your partner in maintaining a healthy, confident smile. From comprehensive preventive care to advanced restorative treatments, these professionals bring expertise and compassion to every appointment. By understanding their role and selecting the right provider, you invest in your long-term oral health and overall well-being.

Frequently Asked Questions

What qualifications are required to become a licensed oral healthcare provider practicing dentistry?

To become a licensed oral healthcare provider practicing dentistry, one must complete a dental degree from an accredited dental school, pass national and state licensing examinations, and fulfill any additional state-specific requirements.

What types of services can a licensed oral healthcare provider offer?

A licensed oral healthcare provider can offer services including routine dental exams, cleanings, fillings, root canals, extractions, crowns, bridges, dentures, orthodontics, and oral surgery depending on their specialization and licensure.

How can patients verify if their dentist is properly licensed?

Patients can verify their dentist's license by checking with their state's dental board or regulatory authority, which typically provides an online searchable database of licensed dental professionals.

What is the importance of seeing a licensed oral healthcare provider for dental treatment?

Seeing a licensed oral healthcare provider ensures that the professional has met all education, training, and ethical standards necessary to provide safe and effective dental care, reducing the risk

of complications or malpractice.

Can a licensed oral healthcare provider practice dentistry in multiple states?

A licensed oral healthcare provider must obtain a license in each state where they wish to practice dentistry, as dental licenses are typically state-specific and not automatically transferable.

What continuing education requirements do licensed dentists have to maintain their license?

Licensed dentists are generally required to complete a certain number of continuing education hours periodically to maintain their license, ensuring they stay updated with the latest dental practices, technologies, and regulations.

Additional Resources

Oral Healthcare Provider Licensed to Practice Dentistry: A Professional Overview

Oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry represents a critical pillar in maintaining public health and individual well-being. These licensed professionals are entrusted with diagnosing, preventing, and treating a myriad of dental conditions that affect not only oral function but also overall systemic health. As the demand for comprehensive oral care grows, understanding the qualifications, scope of practice, and evolving roles of these providers becomes increasingly important for patients, healthcare systems, and policymakers alike.

Understanding the Role of an Oral Healthcare Provider Licensed to Practice Dentistry

An oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry typically refers to a dentist who has completed rigorous education and training, passed national and state licensing examinations, and adheres to professional standards regulated by dental boards. These providers are qualified to perform a variety of dental procedures ranging from routine cleanings and preventive care to complex surgical interventions.

The licensing process is designed to ensure that oral healthcare providers possess the necessary knowledge and skills to deliver safe, effective treatment. This includes mastery over anatomy, pathology, pharmacology, and the latest dental technologies. Licensing also mandates ongoing continuing education to keep practitioners abreast of innovations and best practices in dental care.

Educational Pathway and Licensing Requirements

Typically, becoming an oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry involves several

pivotal steps:

1. **Undergraduate Education:** Most dental schools require candidates to complete a bachelor's degree with prerequisite courses in biology, chemistry, and physics.
2. **Dental School:** Prospective dentists must graduate from an accredited dental program, generally lasting four years, culminating in a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) or Doctor of Dental Medicine (DMD) degree.
3. **Licensing Examinations:** Candidates must pass written and clinical exams, such as the National Board Dental Examination and state-specific practical tests.
4. **Continuing Education:** To maintain licensure, dentists engage in ongoing education, ensuring their competencies evolve with emerging dental science and technology.

Licensing requirements may vary slightly by jurisdiction, but the underlying goal remains consistent: to protect patients by ensuring that only qualified individuals offer dental care.

Scope of Practice and Specializations

The oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry is not a monolithic role; it encompasses a range of specialties and services designed to address diverse patient needs. General dentists manage routine oral health issues, while specialists focus on particular areas requiring advanced expertise.

General Dentistry vs. Dental Specialties

General dentists provide comprehensive oral care, including examinations, cleanings, fillings, crowns, and basic periodontal therapy. They often serve as the first point of contact for patients and coordinate care with specialists when necessary.

Specialists licensed in dentistry include:

- **Orthodontists:** Focus on the alignment of teeth and jaws using braces, retainers, and other corrective devices.
- **Periodontists:** Treat diseases of the gums and supporting structures of the teeth.
- **Endodontists:** Specialize in root canal therapy and treatment of dental pulp issues.
- **Prosthodontists:** Restore and replace teeth using dentures, implants, and bridges.
- **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons:** Perform surgical procedures on the mouth, jaws, and

face.

- **Pediatric Dentists:** Focus on dental care for children, including behavioral management and preventive strategies.

Each specialty requires additional training and certification beyond general dental licensure, reflecting the complexity of their respective fields.

Technological Advancements and Their Impact

The scope of practice for oral healthcare providers licensed to practice dentistry has expanded significantly with technological advances. Digital imaging, 3D printing, laser dentistry, and computer-aided design and manufacturing (CAD/CAM) have transformed diagnostics and treatment planning.

For example, digital radiography reduces patient exposure to radiation while providing high-resolution images for accurate diagnosis. Similarly, laser technology allows minimally invasive procedures with reduced pain and faster healing times. These innovations not only improve patient outcomes but also enhance operational efficiency within dental practices.

Regulatory and Ethical Considerations in Dental Practice

Maintaining licensure as an oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry carries substantial regulatory responsibilities. Dental boards enforce rules governing professional conduct, patient safety, and quality of care. Providers must comply with laws related to patient confidentiality, informed consent, and infection control.

Patient Safety and Quality Assurance

Implementing evidence-based protocols and adhering to infection control standards are fundamental to safeguarding patients. Licensure ensures that dentists are competent in sterilization techniques, management of medical emergencies, and safe administration of anesthesia.

Moreover, ethical standards require transparency in treatment options, costs, and potential risks. Providers are expected to prioritize patient welfare over financial incentives, fostering trust and long-term patient relationships.

Challenges in Licensing and Practice

Despite rigorous licensing regimes, challenges persist. Variability in state licensure requirements

can create barriers for dentists seeking to practice across jurisdictions, impacting workforce mobility. Additionally, the rising cost of dental education and licensure exams may deter potential candidates, contributing to provider shortages in underserved areas.

Addressing these challenges requires a balance between maintaining high standards and facilitating access to care, possibly through interstate compacts or alternative certification pathways.

Oral Healthcare Providers' Role in Public Health

Beyond individual patient care, oral healthcare providers licensed to practice dentistry play a vital role in public health initiatives. They contribute to early detection of systemic diseases manifesting in the oral cavity, such as diabetes and certain cancers.

Preventive Care and Community Outreach

Dental professionals advocate for preventive strategies including fluoride treatments, sealants, and education on proper oral hygiene. Many participate in community programs targeting vulnerable populations, helping reduce disparities in oral health outcomes.

Furthermore, integration of dental care within broader healthcare frameworks is gaining momentum, recognizing the interplay between oral health and overall wellness.

Future Trends in Dental Licensing and Practice

Looking ahead, the dental profession is poised to evolve through tele-dentistry, artificial intelligence, and personalized medicine. These trends will influence licensing standards as regulatory bodies adapt to new models of care delivery.

Additionally, expanding the roles of dental hygienists and therapists under supervision may address access gaps while maintaining quality, illustrating the dynamic nature of oral healthcare provision.

The designation of an oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry remains a cornerstone of safe, effective dental care. Understanding the multifaceted aspects of licensure, practice scope, and evolving challenges deepens appreciation for these professionals who safeguard one of the most essential components of human health: the mouth.

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oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry: Modern Dental Assisting - E-Book Doni L. Bird, Debbie S. Robinson, 2020-03-13 Easily master all aspects of dental assisting with the most up-to-date and most trusted text available. For more than 40 years, students and practitioners alike have relied on Modern Dental Assisting for its cutting-edge content, easy-to-grasp writing style, step-by-step procedures, and top-notch visuals. And the new 13th edition is no exception. With updated content — including the latest technological advancements, clinical photographs, and new coverage on cultural diversity and how it relates to patient care — this new edition will guide you from your first day of class all the way to your first job in dental assisting. - UNIQUE! Trusted expert authors Doni Bird and Debbie Robinson present information and procedures in a way that makes it easy for students to understand and apply the material. - Comprehensive, cutting-edge content is presented in approachable writing style. - Step-by-step procedures for general and expanded functions use color coding and clinical photos to demonstrate key dental assisting competencies. - 70 procedural videos include questions and answers correlated to the chapter procedures with closed-captioning in English and Spanish and audio narration in English. - UNIQUE! Interactive Dental Office program provides in-depth case studies integrated with periodontal charting, radiographic mounting, and more. - Dentrix practice management software on Evolve enables students to work with patient data much like they will in the office environment. - Recall and Critical Thinking questions in each chapter provide opportunities for practice and application. - Feature boxes on infection control and CDC practice, patient education, and law and ethics summarize recommendations and key applications in practice. - Key terminology list helps students better comprehend the chapter and how the information applies to dentistry practice. - Learning and performance outcomes set goals for what students will accomplish and serve as checkpoints for comprehension and skills mastery. - NEW! Information on cultural diversity grounds students in this important topic and how it relates to patient care and patient communication. - UPDATED! art program provides vivid original renderings of dental anatomy tooth morphology and dental imaging, along with improved photos of the latest products, equipment, and instruments. - NEW! Coverage of the latest advances in general and specialty dental care covers technological advancements, public

health and access to care, teledentistry, infection control guidelines, the Zika virus, Ebola, the oral-systemic health connection, and more. - NEW! Updated critical thinking and recall questions challenge students and provide recollection skills.

oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry: Darby and Walsh Dental Hygiene E-Book Jennifer A Pieren, Denise M. Bowen, 2019-03-04 Back and better than ever, Darby and Walsh's Dental Hygiene: Theory and Practice, 5th Edition offers everything you need to succeed in your coursework, at certification, and in clinical practice. No other dental hygiene text incorporates the clinical skills, theory, and evidence-based practice in such an approachable way. All discussions — from foundational concepts to diagnosis to pain management — are presented within the context of a unique patient-centered model that takes the entire person into consideration. New to this fifth edition is a much more streamlined approach — one that stays focused on need-to-know information, yet also houses expanded content on things like alternative practice settings, pediatric care, risk assessment, and dental hygiene diagnosis to give you added context when needed. This edition is also filled with new modern illustrations and new clinical photos to augment your learning. If you want a better grasp of all the dental hygienist's roles and responsibilities in today's practice, they Darby and Walsh's renowned text is a must-have. - Focus on research and evidence-base practice provide proven findings and practical applications for topics of interest in modern dental hygiene care. - Step-by-step procedure boxes with accompanying illustrations, clinical photos, and rationales outline the equipment required and the steps involved in performing key procedures. - Critical thinking exercises, cases, and scenarios help hone your application and problem-solving skills. - Feature boxes highlight patient education, law, ethics, and safety. - UNIQUE! Discussions of theory provide a solid foundation for practice. - Key terms are called out within chapters and defined in glossary with cross-references to chapters. - Practice quizzes enable you to self-assess your understanding. - NEW! Streamlined approach focuses on the information you need to know along with the practical applications. - NEW! Added content covers alternative practice settings, new infection control guidelines, pediatric care, risk assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, the electronic health record (EHR), and more. - NEW! Modern illustrations and updated clinical photos give you a better picture of how to perform essential skills and utilize clinical technology. - NEW! Online procedures videos guide you step-by-step through core clinical skills. - NEW! Editorial team brings a fresh perspective and more than 30 years of experience in dental hygiene education, practice, and research.

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professional development opportunities; learning competencies; patient education tips; critical thinking scenarios; and discussions of legal, ethical, and safety issues, which help your practical application and problem-solving skills and bring the profession to life. - NEW! Increased focus on new and emerging technologies keeps you up to date with the latest advances in the field. - NEW! Telehealth chapter explains how to practice telehealth and teledentistry in nontraditional and community-based settings. - NEW! Mental Health and Self-Care chapter provides timely content on safeguarding mental health and wellness for the practitioner and the patient. - UPDATED! Enhanced coverage of infection control prepares you to practice as a dental hygienist in the time of COVID-19 and potential future pandemic events. - UPDATED! Coverage of Caries Management by Risk Assessment (CAMBRA®) for integrating into the dental hygiene process of care. - EXPANDED! Further integration of the current American Academy of Periodontology periodontal classifications throughout the text. - Integration of theory throughout the book includes content on how to incorporate the use of theory in practice.

oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry: Veterinary Dentistry: A Team Approach E-Book Elsevier, 2024-10-08 From radiology and anesthesia to patient needs and client education, *Veterinary Dentistry: A Team Approach*, 4th Edition covers everything you need to know about animal dentistry! This handy full-color guide is great for practitioners who are new to veterinary dentistry and for those who want to learn more about the underlying theories of the practice. The first section of the book presents dental procedures, with chapters on oral examinations, instruments, safety, and ergonomics, followed by coverage of more difficult areas such as endodontics, exodontics, and periodontics. The book concludes with a chapter on marketing veterinary dentistry and proper responses to commonly asked client questions. With its comprehensive coverage and team approach, this text is the ideal resource for helping both veterinary technology and veterinary medicine students quickly master the art of animal dentistry. - NEW and UPDATED! Art and illustrations clarify concepts and show examples of equipment and procedures - UPDATED! Content highlights important technologic and professional updates to the field of veterinary dentistry, such as updates on disease processes and applicable new procedural techniques and equipment - UPDATED! Current terminology, based on the American Veterinary Dental College Nomenclature Committee, helps you master the proper language and improve office communication - Coverage of the essential dentistry-related tasks in the Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA)'s Manual of Accreditation for Veterinary Technology Programs enables faculty to evaluate your proficiency related to the essential tasks - Clear, abundantly illustrated procedures provide a more detailed look at the skills you need to master - NEW! Chapter on medical communication helps you understand the impact it has on clinical success - Radiography and imaging coverage strengthens your understanding of radiographic anatomy, positioning, and the technologies available

oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry: The Dental Team in the European Union Sondra Z. Koff, 2021-06-23 This book discusses dental healthcare professionals in the European Union and EU policy output and activities in the context of Europeanization and its impact on oral health care. Adopting a framework focused on an institution and its policies allows for discussion from the perspective of multiple actors, both national and international. The research is timely and significant because of the momentous changes that have taken and are taking place in healthcare delivery systems and professions in the Member States of the European Union. In the book, the author constructs a profile of the oral healthcare professions in the Member States; creates an inventory of challenges faced by these professions; illustrates the impact Europeanization and one of its organs, the European Union, have had on oral health care; demonstrates the way in which national traits and institutions exercise a role in the transposition of EU outputs; and catalogues the stages and views of some representatives of the dental team. Topics explored include: The First Stage of Professionalization: Education Dental Care Professionals: Regulation Member States: Healthcare Provision The Workplace The European Union and the Dental Team Readers not only learn the fundamentals of oral health professions, their realities, and healthcare delivery, but

also become familiar with the political concepts, institutions, and practice related to the field. The Dental Team in the European Union, having academic and general interest as well as practical value, appeals to diverse audiences. The book is an invaluable resource for researchers and practitioners in the social sciences and the healthcare and dental worlds. It also can be used as required or supplemental reading for students in the healthcare professions, public policy, and political science. Decision-makers at various levels of government and persons affiliated with funding agencies as well as scholarly and professional associations in the United States and abroad also would find this a useful text.

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oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry: Ethics and Law in Dental Hygiene - E-Book Kristin Minihan-Anderson, 2023-04-07 **Selected for Doody's Core Titles® 2024 in Dental Hygiene & Auxiliaries**Learn professional, practical ways to handle ethical and legal issues in dental practice! Ethics and Law in Dental Hygiene, 4th Edition provides a solid foundation in ethical theory and laws relating to oral healthcare professionals, including ethical conduct and social responsibility. An ethical decision-making model helps you unpack and analyze ethical dilemmas, and case scenarios challenge you to apply concepts to the real world. Written by a team of experts led by educator Kristin Minihan-Anderson, this book helps Dental Hygiene students prepare for the NBDHE exam and also serves as an valuable reference for practitioners looking to continue their professional growth. - Dental hygiene-focused coverage highlights need-to-know concepts and information on ethics and law. - Logical organization of content includes separate sections on ethics, law, and simulations and applications of both, building a solid foundation for practical application. - Concepts with real-world relevance make it easier to apply your knowledge to everyday situations. - Six-step decision-making model provides a framework with which to tackle ethical situations. - Chapters on legal concepts include information on risk management and state dental practice legislation. - Key terms are defined in each chapter and in the glossary. - Key vocabulary helps you understand complex content. - NEW! Updated illustrations visually support key content. - NEW! Updated case studies include realistic scenarios, helping students explore a wide range of situations and practice making sound ethical and legal decisions. - NEW! Updated testlets use short clinical scenarios to help students develop skills in critical thinking and problem solving, and prepare for the case-based component of the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination (NBDHE).

oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry: Practice Management for Dental Hygienists Esther K. Andrews, 2007 This textbook prepares dental hygiene students and dental hygienists to handle the business and operational aspects of the dental office. The book teaches students how a dental office functions from an operational standpoint and how dental hygienists, as licensed professionals, fit into that operation. Major sections cover basics of dentistry and dental law, office management, applied communications, and employability skills. To accommodate a two-credit course, the text is concise and focuses on exercise-based learning. Each chapter includes workbook exercises, study questions, critical thinking activities, case studies, and RDH board practice questions, as well as selected references, Websites, and student activities.

oral healthcare provider licensed to practice dentistry: Dental Hygiene - E-Book Margaret Walsh, Michele Leonardi Darby, 2014-04-15 Emphasizing evidence-based research and clinical

competencies, *Dental Hygiene: Theory and Practice*, 4th Edition, provides easy-to-understand coverage of the dental hygienist's roles and responsibilities in today's practice. It offers a clear approach to science and theory, a step-by-step guide to core dental hygiene procedures, and realistic scenarios to help you develop skills in decision-making. New chapters and content focus on evidence-based practice, palliative care, professional issues, and the electronic health record. Written by Michele Leonardi Darby, Margaret M. Walsh, and a veritable Who's Who of expert contributors, *Dental Hygiene* follows the Human Needs Conceptual Model with a focus on client-centered care that takes the entire person into consideration. UNIQUE! Human Needs Conceptual Model framework follows Maslow's human needs theory, helping hygienists treat the whole patient — not just specific diseases. Comprehensive coverage addresses the need-to-know issues in dental hygiene — from the rationale behind the need for dental hygiene care through assessment, diagnosis, care planning, implementation, pain and anxiety control, the care of individuals with special needs, and practice management. Step-by-step procedure boxes list the equipment required and the steps involved in performing key procedures. Rationales for the steps are provided in printable PDFs online. Critical Thinking exercises and Scenario boxes encourage application and problem solving, and help prepare students for the case-based portion of the NBDHE. Client Education boxes list teaching points that the dental hygienist may use to educate clients on at-home daily oral health care. High-quality and robust art program includes full-color illustrations and clinical photographs as well as radiographs to show anatomy, complex clinical procedures, and modern equipment. Legal, Ethical, and Safety Issues boxes address issues related to risk prevention and management. Expert authors Michele Darby and Margaret Walsh lead a team of international contributors consisting of leading dental hygiene instructors, researchers, and practitioners. NEW chapters on evidence-based practice, the development of a professional portfolio, and palliative care provide research-based findings and practical application of topics of interest in modern dental hygiene care. NEW content addresses the latest research and best practices in attaining clinical competency, including nutrition and community health guidelines, nonsurgical periodontal therapy, digital imaging, local anesthesia administration, pharmacology, infection control, and the use of the electronic health record (EHR) within dental hygiene practice. NEW photographs and illustrations show new guidelines and equipment, as well as emerging issues and trends. NEW! Companion product includes more than 50 dental hygiene procedures videos in areas such as periodontal instrumentation, local anesthesia administration, dental materials manipulation, common preventive care, and more. Sold separately.

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