

**STANDARDS OF CARE
HALIFAX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DENTAL HYGIENE PROGRAM**

The HCC Dental Hygiene Program has adopted the following policies and procedures concerning the treatment services provided to all patients in the HCC Dental Hygiene Clinic:

Assuring Comprehensive, Quality, Patient-Centered Care

- ❖ During evaluation and grading of the dental hygiene care plan each faculty member will verify that the care plan:
 1. Includes all educational and clinical services necessary to meet the comprehensive/individual treatment needs of the patient.
 2. Includes all referrals for medical or dental care/evaluation.
 3. Is patient-centered.
 4. Is developed based on scientific evidence.

- ❖ At the end of each clinic session a faculty member will sign the treatment record with his/her name to signify that the h/she has:
 1. Assisted the student in immediately modifying the care plan to correct any deficits found in the care plan.
 2. Verified that all treatment planned for that date is complete.
 3. Noted any deficits in patient services and the measures to correct that deficit in the treatment record. The dental hygiene care plan must be amended to reflect the change.

- ❖ Before assigning a grade as an end-product evaluation, the faculty member will verify that only completed quality treatment within the dental hygiene legal scope of practice has been delivered.

- ❖ As a faculty member works with a student, s/he will review the previous treatment record entries to make sure quality, patient-centered, comprehensive treatment is delivered and all treatment completed.

Referring Patients for Medical/Dental Consultations

- ❖ Each patient's medical/dental history is reviewed by the student operator with a faculty member at the beginning of every appointment.

- ❖ The student proceeds with dental hygiene treatment if there are no medical/health/dental concerns that warrant consultations with the appropriate healthcare provider.

- ❖ Any patient with questionable medical/health/dental concerns will be referred for a medical consultation, and the patient will be treated once they have a written release from the appropriate healthcare provider.
- ❖ Any patient with a highly questionable medical/dental status will be expected to clarify, when possible, any questions concerning the questionable status.
- ❖ Patients may be denied dental hygiene care in the HCC Dental Hygiene Clinic due to advanced medical/dental complications. The consulting dentist along with clinic faculty will make the final determination in accepting a patient for care in the clinic.
- ❖ Any patient may be refused treatment in the HCC Dental Hygiene Clinic due to the presence of:
 1. A progressive disease state that makes it unsafe to deliver routine dental hygiene care in this setting.
 2. Any communicable diseases that creates an unsafe environment for students, faculty, staff or patients.
 3. Advanced dental disease that will not respond to non-surgical periodontal treatment.
- ❖ A patient will be referred for a dental consultation outside of this setting when:
 1. Periodontal disease does not respond to non-surgical periodontal therapy.
 2. Treatment is needed or recommended for dental concerns beyond the scope of this dental hygiene educational clinic.

Assuring Completed Care

- An attempt will be made to contact patients who do not complete their planned treatment in this clinic.
- The assigned student and/or the clinic manager will document the attempt(s) to contact the patient to try to schedule completion of treatment.