



November 10, 2014

Wayne Stuberg, PT (Chair)
Members, 407 Technical Review Committee

Clarification of Meeting Two– 407 Technical Review Committee

The Technical Review Committee has been diligently reviewing the difference between the proposals. The Committee's discussion at the second meeting suggested that there is still some confusion as to the similarities and differences between the proposals.

To help clarify, the NDA/NDAA Application increases the scope of practice for both dental assistants and hygienists. The NDHA Application **significantly increases** the hygienist scope of practice while placing **more restrictive** supervision levels on assistants' current duties and completely eliminating the Expanded Function Licensed Dental Assistant.

As noted previously, the Taskforce met for over two years to reach an agreement on proposed scope changes. The Task Force was nearly in agreement, as shown in the NDA/NDAA Exhibit F, in September 2013. At that time, the parties agreed on scope changes for both the hygienists and the assistants. The parties differed on only three issues:

1. Extraction of teeth
2. Supervision of Anesthesia – lowered from the existing “indirect supervision” to “general supervision.”
3. Whether to include sealants – NDA/NDAA removed from entire proposal because it was too contentious.

After September 2013, the NDHA changed its position and added numerous hygiene duties with less supervision, while increasing supervision levels for duties performed by dental assistants and totally removing the Expanded Function Dental Assistant level. *These changes were made unilaterally and without the input of the NDA/NDAA. The changes are part of the NDHA 407 proposal:*

1. Some current Assistant duties as outlined in state rules/regs – increased supervision to Direct Supervision*
2. Assistant Monitor nitrous oxide (CPR certification required) and basic course in monitoring nitrous oxide similar to what an RDH takes - increased to Direct Supervision*
3. Some current Assistant duties per state rules/regs – increased to Indirect Supervision
4. Assistant Taking dental x-rays – increased to Indirect Supervision
5. Assistant Fit and cement crowns on primary teeth (with course) - increased to Direct Supervision*
6. Assistant Taking final impressions/ records for dental prosthesis (crowns, bridges, etc. with course) - increased to Direct Supervision*
7. Complete elimination of the Expanded Function Dental Assistant.
8. Added Local anesthesia for hygienists—changed indirect supervision to general supervision
9. Added Orofacialmyology

10. Added Dental Hygiene Diagnosis
11. Added Enameloplasty (drilling tooth) sealant technique (EST) (with course)
12. Relaxed supervision for place and finish dental restorations, and added preparation (drilling tooth) of class I and class V restorations.
13. Added Full Dental Hygiene scope of practice to PHRDH
14. Added Dental Hygiene Diagnosis to PHRDH
15. Added Extraction of primary teeth (without anesthetic) and permanent teeth (Class IV mobility, hopeless prognosis, interfering with eating and daily functions, patient has no dental home4), with or without anesthesia). Needs standing order from dentist or physician. Course required to PHRDH
16. Added Orofacialmyology with National Certification to PHRDH
17. Added Adjust removable appliances/soft reline/ to PHRDH
18. * Direct Supervision does not currently exist in Nebraska law.

The bottom line is: the NDA supported the multi-year work of the Taskforce to bring forth a proposal for consideration that would define common ground of support for future legislation – and one that would have the support of the membership of the Nebraska Dental Association and the membership of the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association. The NDA/NDAA proposal, less the three issues listed above, has that support. The NDHA proposal goes significantly beyond the agreement of the parties after two years of conversation and debate and as a result is not supported by the governing bodies of the NDA or NDAA..

The NDA, representing 75% of Nebraska dentists, stands ready to present testimony or information that would help the committee understand the process and discussion that the Taskforce undertook to reach the results set forth in the NDA/NDHA proposal and to reach a conclusion that its proposal is in the public interest. We stand ready to assist the Committee in the completion of their task.

Sincerely,



David O'Doherty
Executive Director
Nebraska Dental Association