

Dentistry Supervision Definitions

38-1109. General supervision, defined. General supervision means the directing of the authorized activities of a dental hygienist or dental assistant by a licensed dentist and shall not be construed to require the physical presence of the supervisor when directing such activities. Source: Laws 2007, LB463, § 442. Operative date December 1, 2008.

Examples include: Dental hygienist duties enumerated in Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-1131 may all be performed under general supervision without the dentist being physically present while the activities are being performed.

There are currently no dental assistant duties authorized under general supervision.

38-1131. Licensed dental hygienist; procedures and functions authorized; enumerated. When authorized by and under the **general supervision** of a licensed dentist, a licensed dental hygienist may perform the following intra and extra oral procedures and functions:

- (1) Oral prophylaxis, periodontal scaling, and root planing which includes supragingival and subgingival debridement;
- (2) Polish all exposed tooth surfaces, including restorations;
- (3) Conduct and assess preliminary charting, probing, screening examinations, and indexing of dental and periodontal disease, with referral, when appropriate, for a dental diagnosis by a licensed dentist;
- (4) Brush biopsies;
- (5) Pulp vitality testing;
- (6) Gingival curettage;
- (7) Removal of sutures;
- (8) Preventive measures, including the application of fluorides, sealants, and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease;
- (9) Impressions for study casts;
- (10) Application of topical and subgingival agents;
- (11) Radiographic exposures;
- (12) Oral health education, including conducting workshops and inservice training sessions on dental health;
- (13) Application or administration of antimicrobial rinses, fluorides, and other anticariogenic agents; and
- (14) All of the duties that any dental assistant is authorized to perform.

Source: Laws 1986, LB 572, § 3; Laws 1999, LB 800, § 7; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-193.17; Laws 2007, LB247, § 25; Laws 2007, LB463, § 464. The changes made by LB 247 became operative June 1, 2007. The changes made by LB 463 became operative December 1, 2008.

38-1110. Indirect supervision, defined. Indirect supervision means supervision when the licensed dentist authorizes the procedure to be performed by a dental hygienist or dental assistant and the licensed dentist is physically present on the premises when such procedure is being performed by the dental hygienist pursuant to section 38-1132 or the dental assistant.
Source: Laws 2007, LB463, § 443. Operative date December 1, 2008.

Examples include: Dental hygienist duties for monitoring nitrous oxide analgesia and for administering local anesthesia enumerated in Neb. Rev. Stat. 38-1132 may be performed under indirect supervision only when the dentist has authorized the procedure and the dentist is physically present while the activities are being performed.

Dental assistants who have completed specified training pursuant to 172 NAC 53-005 may perform coronal polishing procedures under indirect supervision only when the dentist has authorized the procedure and the dentist is physically present while the activities are being performed.

38-1132. Licensed dental hygienist; monitor analgesia; administer local anesthesia; when.

(1) A licensed dental hygienist may monitor nitrous oxide analgesia under the **indirect supervision** of a licensed dentist.

(2) A licensed dental hygienist may be approved by the department, with the recommendation of the board, to administer local anesthesia under the **indirect supervision** of a licensed dentist. The board may prescribe by rule and regulation: The necessary education and preparation, which shall include, but not be limited to, instruction in the areas of head and neck anatomy, osteology, physiology, pharmacology, medical emergencies, and clinical techniques; the necessary clinical experience; and the necessary examination for purposes of determining the competence of licensed dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia. The board may approve successful completion after July 1, 1994, of a course of instruction to determine competence to administer local anesthesia. The course of instruction must be at an accredited school or college of dentistry or an accredited dental hygiene program. The course of instruction must be taught by a faculty member or members of the school or college of dentistry or dental hygiene program presenting the course. The board may approve for purposes of this subsection a course of instruction if such course includes:

(a) At least twelve clock hours of classroom lecture, including instruction in (i) medical history evaluation procedures, (ii) anatomy of the head, neck, and oral cavity as it relates to administering local anesthetic agents, (iii) pharmacology of local anesthetic agents, vasoconstrictor, and preservatives, including physiologic actions, types of anesthetics, and maximum dose per weight, (iv) systemic conditions which influence selection and administration of anesthetic agents, (v) signs and symptoms of reactions to local anesthetic agents, including monitoring of vital signs, (vi) management of reactions to or complications associated with the administration of local anesthetic agents, (vii) selection and preparation of the armamentaria for

administering various local anesthetic agents, and (viii) methods of administering local anesthetic agents;

(b) At least twelve clock hours of clinical instruction during which time at least three injections of each of the anterior, middle and posterior superior alveolar, naso and greater palatine, inferior alveolar, lingual, mental, long buccal, and infiltration injections are administered; and

(c) Procedures, which shall include an examination, for purposes of determining whether the hygienist has acquired the necessary knowledge and proficiency to administer local anesthetic agents.

Source: Laws 1986, LB 572, § 4; Laws 1995, LB 449, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 416; Laws 1999, LB 800, § 8; Laws 1999, LB 828, § 75; Laws 2003, LB 242, § 37; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-193.18; Laws 2007, LB296, § 329; Laws 2007, LB463, § 465. The changes made by LB 296 became operative July 1, 2007. The changes made by LB 463 became operative December 1, 2008.

Other Statutory References to Supervision

Several other sections of the Dentistry Practice Act included below also refer to supervision. In one instance, the term “direct supervision” is used; however, it is not defined.

38-1116. Dentistry practice; exceptions. The Dentistry Practice Act shall not apply to:

(2) The giving by a qualified anesthetist or registered nurse of an anesthetic for a dental operation under the **direct supervision** of a licensed dentist or physician;

(6) The use of roentgen or X-ray machines or other rays for making radiograms or similar records of dental or oral tissues under the **supervision** of a licensed dentist or physician if such service is not advertised by any name whatever as an aid or inducement to secure dental patronage, and no person shall advertise that he or she has, leases, owns, or operates a roentgen or X-ray machine for the purpose of making dental radiograms of the human teeth or tissues or the oral cavity or administering treatment thereto for any disease thereof;

(7) The performance by a licensed dental hygienist, under the **supervision** of a licensed dentist, of the oral prophylaxis procedure which shall include the scaling and polishing of teeth and such additional procedures as are prescribed in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the department;

(8) The performance by a dental assistant, under the **supervision** of a licensed dentist, of duties prescribed in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the department;

(9) The performance by a licensed dental hygienist, by virtue of training and professional ability, under the **supervision** of a licensed dentist, of taking dental roentgenograms. Any other person is hereby authorized, under the **supervision** of a licensed dentist, to take dental roentgenograms but shall not be authorized to do so until he or she has satisfactorily completed a course in dental radiology recommended by the board and approved by the department;

38-1133. Department; additional procedures; rules and regulations. The department, with the recommendation of the board, may, by rule and regulation, prescribe functions, procedures, and services in addition to those in section 38-1131 which may be performed by a licensed dental hygienist under the **supervision** of a licensed dentist when such additional procedures are educational or related to the oral prophylaxis and intended to attain or maintain optimal oral health.

Source: Laws 1986, LB 572, § 6; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 417; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-193.19; Laws 2007, LB296, § 330; Laws 2007, LB463, § 466. The changes made by LB 296 became operative July 1, 2007. The changes made by LB 463 became operative December 1, 2008.

38-1135. Dental assistants; employment; duties performed. Any licensed dentist, public institution, or school may employ dental assistants in addition to licensed dental hygienists. Such dental assistants, under the **supervision** of a licensed dentist, may perform such duties as are prescribed in accordance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the department, with the recommendation of the board.

Source: Laws 1971, LB 587, § 13; Laws 1986, LB 572, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 413; Laws 1999, LB 800, § 3; R.S.1943, (2003), § 71-193.13; Laws 2007, LB296, § 327; Laws 2007, LB463, § 468. The changes made by LB 296 became operative July 1, 2007. The changes made by LB 463 became operative December 1, 2008.

Dental Auxiliary, proposed definition

A **dental auxiliary** is a person who is qualified by training and experience to work under the direction and supervision of a dentist, including dental hygienists and dental assistants.

Definitions Currently in 172 NAC 53 Regulations:

001.02 Dental hygienist shall mean a dental auxiliary who is licensed by the Department of Health to perform, under the supervision of a licensed dentist, the scaling and polishing of teeth in the oral prophylaxis procedures prescribed in these rules and regulations.

001.04 Other dental auxiliary shall mean any person who assists a licensed dentist in carrying out the basic duties of a dental office but who is not licensed as a dental hygienist.