

DENTAL HYGIENIST

Nature of work

The principal and customary work of the employee in this employment class consists in performing technical duties in the areas of preventive care and education, to provide therapeutic care and to promote oral health among patients at the college's dental clinic.

The employee may provide technical assistance to teaching personnel assigned to the college's dental clinic.

Required qualifications

Schooling

To have a diploma of college studies in dental hygiene or a diploma or attestation of studies recognized as equivalent by the competent authority.

Other requirements

Must be a member in good standing of the Ordre des hygiénistes dentaires du Québec.

Some characteristic duties

The employee in this employment class works to prevent mouth and tooth diseases and teaches patients proper oral hygiene skills. He explains brushing and flossing techniques and gives appropriate, personalized advice. He establishes individual preventive treatment plans.

The employee greets patients, opens files for new patients and records pertinent information. He takes x-rays; cleans teeth; removes tartar, stains and deposits from teeth, then applies fluoride.

The employee prepares instruments for sterilization and makes sure the office is aseptic at all times. He applies topical desensitizers such as varnish or adhesive cement and sculpts dental obturators, removes stitches, and applies temporary dressings, without drilling, when the pulp is not exposed. He gathers information from vitality tests. He may seal pits and cracks and make models and supports.

In orthodontics, the employee may install braces, elastics and wires following the treatment plan established by the dentist, makes the necessary adjustments and cements spacers.

In periodontics, the employee treats diseased gums, removes periodontal dressings and descales above and below the gum line, polishing the exposed part of the root.

He is called upon to keep an inventory of specialized merchandise required by the clinic and orders materials.

He is called upon to coordinate the work of support personnel involved in technical operations or programs for which he is responsible and to train less experienced personnel.

If need be, he performs any other related tasks.