

How Much is Enough? QAP Credits and the Required Learning Plan

For Registered Dental Hygienists

Category: Quality Assurance

Source: CDHBC

September 1, 2022

Territorial acknowledgement

The offices of BCCOHP are located on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Coast Salish and Lekwungen-speaking Peoples, represented today by the Musqueam, Squamish, Tsleil-Waututh, Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. Acknowledging the territories and the original stewards of these lands is a fundamental responsibility of our organization and in keeping with our commitment to support the provision of safe, effective, culturally sensitive oral health care for British Columbians.



How Much is Enough? QAP Learning Activities, Credits, and the Required Learning Plan

Jacqueline Guyader, Senior Dental Hygiene Advisor

How many learning activities and credits should a CDHBC registrant dedicate to each Required Learning Plan within their Online Learning Plan (OLP)? Before answering this let's look at what a Required Learning Plan specifically is.

Required Learning Plans are automatically populated into a registrant's Online Learning Plan, by [QAP content subcategory](#), based on the registrant's completion of the QAP Assessment Tool. All Required Learning Plans must be addressed through professional learning prior to the end of the registrant's 5-year QAP Cycle.

Now, let's take a closer look at the original question. How many activities and credits would be considered sufficient to address a Required Learning Plan? It is recommended to plan a minimum of two learning **activities** to satisfy a Required Learning Plan. However, there is no minimum or maximum **credit** allowance specified in order to address the goal and action plan within each Required Learning Plan. While a minimum of 75 continuing competency credits must be completed per 5-year QAP cycle, a registrant does not need to focus all of these towards their Required Learning Plan(s). It is up to each registrant to use professional judgement to determine how many credits are appropriate to satisfy each learning plan in order to improve their knowledge, skills and/or abilities for the specified QAP content subcategory or subcategories.

Upon completion of each Learning Plan, registrants are required to complete an overall reflection addressing how their learning from the activities within the Learning Plan has been applied, and how their practice has been enhanced. If a registrant feels that they have addressed the assigned QAP content subcategory and their goal and action plan require no further learning, any remaining credits may be dedicated to a dental hygiene related topic of their interest. As registrants practice in a variety of dental hygiene settings, the types and number of activities they choose to complete as part of their Required Learning Plan(s) is left to their discretion.

To meet the diversity of individual learning needs, learning styles and dental hygiene practice settings, the College encourages each registrant to review the [QAP Learning Activity/Credit Framework \(based on Time and/or Activity\)](#). It is important to make a note of the credit allowances per QAP learning activity type and any limits during the 5-year QAP Cycle, as well as any additional documentation required upon completion of the learning activity.

The following is an example of how three registrants have addressed the QAP Content Subcategory C3 - Radiography Knowledge & Interpretation, in their individual Required Learning Plans. Note that each dental hygienist works in a different practice setting.

QAP Content Subcategory - Dental Sciences C3. Radiography Knowledge, Interpretation			
Practice Setting	Learning Plan Goal and Action Plan	QAP Learning Activity Credit Allowance	QAP Learning Activity and maximum credit allowance/cycle
Dental Hygiene Clinic	<p>By June 1, 2020 I will be able to competently interpret radiographs including identification of radiolucencies, and any other artifacts on the image that would require a referral to a dentist/dental specialist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address this goal, my action plan will include the following learning activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By May 15, 2020 I will complete the BCDHA Comprehensive Dental Hygiene Refresher Module C3 By May 25, 2020 I will watch the webinar by DH Solutions INC. Titled "Let's focus on image! Radiography for the Dental Hygienist" 	<p>3</p> <p>2</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> BCDHA Refresher Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 credits max/module Courses, lectures, presentations, sessions, seminars-both online and in-person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit/hr
General Dental Office	<p>By June 1, 2020 I will incorporate the radiographic findings to inform the dental hygiene diagnosis and or referrals/consults and discuss this with my client.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address this goal, my action plan will include the following learning activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By May 15, 2020 I will attend the course "Radiography for Dental Hygienists" at the local conference which focuses on radiographic interpretation specifically for the dental hygienist and is 6 hours long. By May 25, 2020 I will create a template form where I will copy and save digital radiographic images (ensuring all are anonymized) of clients from our practice and will write an interpretation for each and have a dental hygiene peer/dentist provide mentorship on my documentation. I will reflect on how this has improved my practice. 	<p>6</p> <p>3 credits (I will re-assess upon completion of this activity as it may take more or less time)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Courses, lectures, presentations, sessions, seminars-both online and in-person. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit/hr Other learning activities. QAP CC Credit Activity Approval From to be completed for submission to QAC. (QAC can approve credits to a maximum 20 credits/cycle for 'other' activities)
Community Public Health	<p>By June 1, 2020 I will incorporate into my practice educational information for pregnant mothers and new moms about radiograph safety as this is a concern that comes up often when presenting at mom and tot classes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To address this goal, my action plan will include the following learning activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> By May 15, 2017 I will read information related to dental X-ray safety from the following grey literature: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence Review: Dental Health – Core Public Health Functions for BC (2014) Oral Health Care During Pregnancy - A National Consensus Statement (2012) By May 25, 2020 I will create a Radiography Fact Sheet to handout to mothers at the mom and tot group based on the information I have gathered from my textbook study. 	<p>2</p> <p>2 credits (I will re-assess upon completion of this activity as it may take more or less time)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reading a journal article or chapter in a dental hygiene related textbook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 credit/article or chapter, Max 30 credits/cycle Other learning activities. QAP CC Credit Activity Approval From to be completed for submission to QAC. (QAC can approve credits to a maximum 20 credits/cycle)

If you have any questions, please contact the College for any further clarification.