

## Expectations for clinical and ethical practice

# Practice Standard #2

## Applies to Dental Hygienists



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The British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP) was created on September 1, 2022 through the amalgamation of four health regulatory colleges: the College of Dental Hygienists of BC, the College of Dental Surgeons of BC, the College of Dental Technicians of BC, and the College of Denturists of BC. All current requirements for standards of clinical and ethical practice issued by the four colleges remain in place upon amalgamation. This document was created by the College of Dental Hygienists of BC and will be updated to reflect the amalgamation.

## PRACTICE STANDARD POLICY # 2

**2.1** When contacting blood or saliva, dental hygienists must practice recognized infection control as outlined by current resources as amended from time to time (refer to “CDC Infection Control Guidelines for Dentistry” by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Recommendations for Implementation of Infection Control Procedures” by the Canadian Dental Association,\* and the CDHBC Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines).

\* Publications change from time to time. Dental hygienists are encouraged to obtain a current copy of any resources noted in the Practice Standards Policies from the College office or from [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) and [www.cda-adc.ca](http://www.cda-adc.ca).

**2.2** Dental hygienists must protect the client. In a clinical setting this should include:

- Draping the client with a lead apron and thyroid collar during exposure to x-rays; and
- Providing safety glasses for the client if there is any danger from splatter or materials; and
- Providing hearing protection for the client if he/she is sensitive to the noise of practice setting equipment.

**2.3** Dental hygienists must use potentially hazardous materials (such as radiation and disinfectants) safely, according to manufacturers' recommendations and government guidelines (refer to the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) guidelines and sections 8 and 9 of Health Canada's “Safety Code 30” document).

**2.4** When dental hygienists own their practice, dental hygienists must store and dispose of potentially hazardous wastes and materials safely, according to government guidelines (refer to the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) guidelines).

**2.5** When dental hygienists are responsible for radiography equipment, dental hygienists must comply with all aspects of the Radiation Protection Program.