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OPPORTUNITY AWAITS

Dental hygienists are licensed dental professionals who practice both independently and/or under the supervision of a dentist to meet the oral health needs of the public. They remove plaque and calculus from all surfaces of patients' teeth, record and review patients' health histories, process and develop photos and X-rays, make dental impressions, apply fluorides and sealants, instruct patients in proper oral hygiene and nutrition.

Dental hygienists support the long-term oral health of their patients through dental cleanings and ongoing education about the preservation of healthy teeth and gums. This role can serve in a variety of settings beyond private dental practice.

Who is the face of DH?

You are the teacher, the motivator and the salesperson who will help them establish and maintain proper oral care. You will take satisfaction from the daily patient care you deliver, such as when you see a patient who has suffered from chronic oral disease return with healthy teeth and gums because of your clinical skill, mentoring and guidance.

Did You Know?

- Work settings can include private practice, schools, prisons, public health settings and residential nursing homes.
- Dental hygienists can practice independently or under a dentist's supervision
- Dental hygienists are among the most important health professionals in a patient's life



DENTAL HYGIENIST

Job Outlook



BRIGHT OUTLOOK

20% projected growth in employment
from 2016 to 2026, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Job Responsibilities

Dental hygienists are critical to a patient's oral health as they not only provide regular dental cleanings but also educate patients in general care and address individual patient needs.

Duties can include:

- Apply fluorides and sealants
- Instruct patients in proper oral hygiene and nutrition
- Make dental impressions
- Process and develop photos and x-rays
- Record and review patients' health histories
- Remove plaque and calculus from all surfaces of patients' teeth