



Recency of Practice/Return to Practice Self Assessment Tool - Dental Hygienist

Name of applicant: _____

This is a tool that allows dental hygienists to reflect on their readiness to return to practice and to review their knowledge and skills and consider their ability to meet competencies relating to their practice.

You are required to consider each of the following competencies¹ which have been gathered under and to think about the gaps you may have in your education, training and / or clinical practice. When considering your gaps, you need to think about the area/s of practice you intend to return to.

Once you have identified these gaps, you need to reflect on how these could be remedied. This may involve further education / training, including continuing professional development activities and / or supervised practice.

Competencies		What are my gaps?	How can I address my gaps?
A. Professionalism			
1.	Demonstrate that patient safety is paramount in all decisions and actions		
2.	Demonstrate appropriate caring behaviour towards patients and respect professional boundaries between themselves, patients, their families and members of the community		
3.	Demonstrate all interactions focus on the patient's best interests and provide patient-centred care, respect patients' dignity, rights and choices		
4.	Recognise professional and individual scopes of practice		

¹ Items in this self-assessment tool are from the Australian Dental Council's publication *Professional competencies of the newly qualified dental hygienist, dental therapist and oral health therapist* (February 2016)

Competencies		What are my gaps?	How can I address my gaps?
5.	Recognise the importance of continuing professional development for all members of the dental team		
6.	Understand the ethical principles and their application underpinning the provision of dental care		
7.	Understand Commonwealth, State and Territory legislation relevant to practise as a dental practitioner		
8.	Understand the principles of efficient, effective and equitable utilisation of resources, and recognise local and national needs in health care and service delivery across Australia's geographical areas		
9.	Provide culturally safe and culturally competent practice that includes recognition of the distinct needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in relation to oral health care provision		
B. Communication and leadership			
1.	Communicate and engage with patients, families and communities in relation to oral health		
2.	Present clear information in a timely manner that ensures patients are advised of and understand care and treatment options to be provided		
3.	Communicate effectively and clearly with other health professionals involved in patients' care		
4.	Engage in mentor/mentee activities and leadership within a health care team		
5.	Recognise the importance of their own and others' health and wellbeing on the ability to practise		
6.	Understand the importance of intra and inter-professional approaches to health care		

Competencies		What are my gaps?	How can I address my gaps?
7.	Understand effective information management		
8.	Understand the principles of dispute resolution		
9.	Communicate responsibly and professionally when using media		
C. Critical thinking			
1.	Locate and evaluate evidence in a critical and scientific manner to support oral health care		
2.	Apply clinical reasoning and judgement in a reflective approach to oral health care		
3.	Understand scientific method and the role of research in advancing knowledge and clinical practice		
D. Health promotion			
1.	Understand the determinants of health, risk factors and behaviours that influence health		
2.	Understand the theories and principles of health promotion		
3.	Understand health promotion strategies to promote oral and general health		
4.	Understand the design, implementation and evaluation of evidence-based health promotion		
E. Scientific and clinical knowledge			
1.	Understand the biological, physical and behavioural sciences in relation to oral health and disease		
2.	Understand the theories and principles of population oral health		

Competencies		What are my gaps?	How can I address my gaps?
3.	Understand the scientific principles and application of infection prevention and control		
4.	Understand the scientific basis, application and risks of using ionising radiation		
5.	Understand the scientific basis, application, limitations and risks of dental materials		
6.	Understand the principles of pharmacology and the risks in using therapeutic agents		
7.	Understand the principles and application of risk management and quality improvement		
F. Patient care			
i. Clinical information gathering			
1.	Obtain and record a relevant history of the patient's medical, social and oral health status		
2.	Perform an examination for health, disease and abnormalities of the dentition, mouth and associated structures		
3.	Select necessary clinical, pathology and other diagnostic procedures and interpret results		
4.	Take radiographs relevant to dental practice		
5.	Evaluate individual patient risk factors for oral disease		
6.	Maintain accurate, objective, legible and contemporaneous records of patient management and protect patient privacy		
ii. Diagnosis and management planning			
1.	Recognise health as it relates to the individual		

Competencies		What are my gaps?	How can I address my gaps?
2.	Diagnose disease or abnormalities of the dentition, mouth and associated structures and identify conditions which require management		
3.	Determine the impact of risk factors, systemic disease and medications on oral health and treatment planning		
4.	Formulate and record a patient-centred and evidence-based oral health treatment plan		
5.	Determine when and how to refer patients to the appropriate health professional		
6.	Obtain and record patient informed consent and financial consent for treatment		
iii. Clinical treatment and evaluation			
1.	Apply the principles of disease and trauma prevention in management of the dentition, mouth and associated structures		
2.	Apply the principles of behaviour management		
3.	Manage non-surgical treatment of diseases and conditions of the periodontium and supporting tissues of the teeth or their replacements		
4.	Manage oral conditions and diseases, pain and pathology of the dentition, mouth and associated structures		
5.	Perform orthodontic procedures as directed by the treating dentist or orthodontist		
6.	Administer pharmaceutical agents		
7.	Evaluate and monitor the progress of treatment and oral health outcomes		

Competencies		What are my gaps?	How can I address my gaps?
8.	Manage dental emergencies		
9.	Manage medical emergencies		

Date: _____

Applicant's signature: _____