

## Fast-track Action

### Board of Dentistry

#### **18VAC60-20-210. Requirements for direction and general supervision.**

A. In all instances, a licensed dentist assumes ultimate responsibility for determining, on the basis of his diagnosis, the specific treatment the patient will receive and which aspects of treatment will be delegated to qualified personnel in accordance with this chapter and the Code of Virginia.

B. Dental hygienists shall engage in their respective duties only while in the employment of a licensed dentist or governmental agency or when volunteering services as provided in 18VAC60-20-200. Persons acting within the scope of a license issued to them by the board under [§54.1-2725](#) of the Code of Virginia to teach dental hygiene and those persons licensed pursuant to [§54.1-2722](#) of the Code of Virginia providing oral health education and preliminary dental screenings in any setting are exempt from this section.

C. Duties delegated to a dental hygienist under direction shall only be performed when the dentist is present in the facility and examines the patient during the time services are being provided.

D. Duties that are delegated to a dental hygienist under general supervision shall only be performed if the following requirements are met:

1. The treatment to be provided shall be ordered by a dentist licensed in Virginia and shall be entered in writing in the record. The services noted on the original order shall be rendered within a specific time period, not to exceed ~~seven~~ ten months from the date the dentist last examined the patient. Upon expiration of the order, the dentist shall have examined the patient before writing a new order for treatment.

2. The dental hygienist shall consent in writing to providing services under general supervision.

3. The patient or a responsible adult shall be informed prior to the appointment that no dentist will be present, that no anesthesia can be administered, and that only those services prescribed by the dentist will be provided.

4. Written basic emergency procedures shall be established and in place, and the hygienist shall be capable of implementing those procedures.

E. General supervision shall not preclude the use of direction when, in the professional judgment of the dentist, such direction is necessary to meet the individual needs of the patient.