Function	Supervision Required	Practice Act Citation	Rules and Regulations Citation	Most Recent Legislative Change
Dental Hygiene Laboratory Order	None	12-220-104 (5.2)		2025
Prophylaxis	None	12-220-503 (1)(a)		
Scaling and Root Planing	None	12-220-503 (1)(a)		
Soft Tissue Curretage/Removal of Granulation Tissue	None	12-220-503 (1)(b)		
Fluoride Application	None	12-220-503 (1)(c)	Rule 1.13	2025
Pit/Fissure Sealants	None	12-220-503 (1)(c)		
Study Casts/Digital Scans	None	12-220-503 (1)(d)(II)		2025
Radiographs	None	12-220-503 (1)(d)(V)		
Screening tests (oral or systemic)	None	12-220-503 (1)(d)(VI)		2025
Topical Anesthesia	None	12-220-503 (1)(e)		
Local Anesthesia	None	12-220-503 (1)(e.5)	Rule 1.14	2025
Dental Hygiene Treatment Planning	None	12-220-503 (1)(f)		2025
Dental Hygiene Assessment	None	12-220-503 (1)(f)		
Dental Hygiene Diagnosis	None	12-220-503 (1)(f)		2025
Identify Hard & Soft Tissue Abnormalities for Referral to a Dentist or Appropriate Specialist	None	12-220-503 (1)(f)		2025
Prescriptive Authority (fluoride supplements)	None	12-220-503 (1)(g)(III)(A)	Rule 1.13	2025
Prescriptive Authority (anti-caries treatments)	None	12-220-503 (1)(g)(III)(B) and (IV)	Rule 1.13	2025
Prescriptive Authority (anti-infectives)	None	12-220-503 (1)(g)(III)(C)	Rule 1.13	2025
Silver Diamine Fluoride	None	12-220-503 (1)(g)(IV)	Rule 1.26	2025
Prescriptive Authority (analgesics, antibiotics)	None*	12-220-503 (1)(g)(V)	Rule 1.13	2025
Supervise Dental Assistants within DH Scope	None	12-220-503 (1)(h)		
Own a Dental Hygiene Practice	None	12-220-503 (4)(a)		
Nitrous Oxide Administration	Indirect	12-220-504 (1)(b)	Rule 1.14	
Laser Use	Indirect	12-220-504 (1)(c)	Rule 1.22	2017
Interim Therapeutic Restorations (ITR)	Indirect	12-220-504 (1)(f)	Rule 1.25	2025
Vaccine Administration	Direct OR Medical Delegation	12-220-504 (1)(d)	Rule 1.33	2025
Neuromodulators and Dermal Fillers	Direct OR Medical Delegation	12-220-504 (1)(e)	Rule 1.34 (in progress)	2025

*Requires Writen Articulated Plan

adha Colorado Dental Hygienists' Association

Colorado Definitions
"Direct Supervision" means the supervision of those tasks or procedures that do not require the presence of the dentist in the room where performed but require the dentist's presence on the premises and availability for prompt consultation and treatment. Practice Act 12-220-104 (7)(a) - Pg. 2
"Indirect Supervision" means the supervision of those tasks or procedures that do not require the presence of the dentist in the office or on the premises at the time such tasks or procedures are being performed, but do require that the tasks be performed with the prior knowledge and consent of the dentist. Colorado Dental Practice Act 12-220-104 (9)(a) - Pg. 3
Unsupervised Dental Hygiene - Unsupervised dental hygiene may be performed by licensed dental hygienists without the supervision of a licensed dentist. Colorado Dental Practice Act 12-220-503 - Pg. 35
"Dental Hygiene Diagnosis" means the identification of an existing oral health problem that a dental hygienist is qualified and licensed to treat within the scope of dental hygiene practice. The dental hygiene diagnosis focuses on behavioral risks and physical conditions that are related to oral health. A dentist shall confirm any dental hygiene diagnosis that requires treatment that is outside the scope of dental hygiene practice pursuant to sections 12-220-501, 12-220-503, and 12-220-504. Colorado Dental Practice Act 12-220-104 (5) - Pg. 2
"Teledentistry" means telehealth methodologies and systems that are used in a manner that is compliant with the federal "Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996", 42 U.S.C. secs. 1320d to 1320d-9, as amended, to deliver oral health services in dentistry, including informational and electronic communication technologies, remote monitoring technologies, and store-and-forward transfers, to facilitate the assessment, diagnosis, consultation, counseling, and education of, or treatment planning for, a patient while the patient is located at an originating site without a dental practitioner, and the dental practitioner providing the service is at a distant site.
"Dental hygiene laboratory work order" means the documented order of a dental hygienist licensed in this state authorizing another person to construct, reproduce, or repair an oral medicament carrier.
"Interim therapeutic restoration" or "ITR": (10) (a) "Interim therapeutic restoration" means a direct provisional restoration placed to stabilize a tooth until a licensed dentist can assess the need for further definitive treatment. (b) "Interim therapeutic restoration" involves the removal of soft material using hand instrumentation, without the use of rotary instrumentation, and the subsequent placement of a glass ionomer restoration, or pursuant to board rules, a restoration using new restorative materials that may become available and are appropriate to the interim therapeutic procedure. (c) "Interim therapeutic restoration" includes protective restoration for adults delivered in accordance with section 12-220-505. Colorado Dental Practice Act 12-220-104 - Pg. 3
Supervising dentist requirements for ITR: - A dentist shall not supervise more than five full-time equivalent dental hygienists who place interim therapeutic restorations under telehealth supervision unless granted a waiver by the board pursuant to subsection (6)(b) of this section. - A dentist who supervises a dental hygienist who provides interim therapeutic restorations under telehealth supervision must have an active license in good standing issued by the board. - Before providing interim therapeutic restorations, a dental hygienist shall confirm in communication to the supervising dentist a referral for follow-up care to a licensed dentist within reasonable physical proximity to the location where the interim therapeutic restoration is placed.