



College of **Dental Hygienists** of Ontario
STANDARD OF PRACTICE

Standard for Authorization to Self-Initiate Profession-Specific Acts

This Standard of Practice will apply to CDHO registrants who plan to self-initiate the controlled act of “*scaling teeth and root planing, including curetting surrounding tissue*” under the *Dental Hygiene Act, 1991* as amended by the *Health System Improvements Act, 2007*. This standard applies regardless of the health care setting in which self-initiation occurs.

This Standard of Practice must be applied in the context of the *Dental Hygiene Act* as amended and the CDHO’s “Contraindications Regulation” (Ontario Regulation 501/07).

The objective of the Standard of Practice for Authorization to Self-Initiate is to provide assurance to Ontarians who choose to have a dental hygienist clean their teeth without an ‘order’ from a dentist, that the dental hygienist is fully competent to do so as safely and effectively as if the procedure were performed under an ‘order’.

This Standard of Practice for Authorization to Self-Initiate describes three streams or scenarios designed to provide this assurance. **This Standard of Practice also articulates the professional expectation that dental hygienists will not self-initiate the controlled act of “*scaling teeth and root planing, including curetting surrounding tissue*” unless they have been authorized to do so by the CDHO through one of the three streams as explained herein.**

CDHO registrants who plan to self-initiate are expected to apply, pay the required application fee (\$75), and provide proof that they meet the requirements of the stream that they are applying under. The College will issue a new wall certificate with a foil-stamped seal that signifies authorization to self-initiate. A notation will also be placed beside the approved registrant’s name on the public register. Registrants who have been granted authorization with conditions will have that notation recorded on their certificate and on the register.

Standard for Authorization to Self-Initiate Profession-Specific Acts

Stream	Eligibility	Requirements	Authorization Level	Term
One	<p>Currently holds a general or specialty certificate of registration with the CDHO, is in good standing and who:</p> <p>a) has practised clinically under a ‘standing order’ or ‘protocol’ in Ontario for at least the two (2) years (3200 hours) previous to application or</p> <p>b) has practised clinically for at least two (2) years (3200 hours) and completed either a CDHO-approved clinical refresher course or the CDHA self-initiation course within the previous 24 months or</p> <p>c) has practised in Alberta or British Columbia for at least two (2) years (3200 hours) previous to application</p> <p>d) is currently authorized to self-initiate in Nova Scotia</p> <p>e) Has held a certificate of conditional authorization for at least six (6) months and has successfully completed the mentorship and any other requirements of Stream Two or Three.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Application & Fee ➔ Good standing with relevant regulatory body ➔ proof of clinical practice with, and evidence of, a ‘standing order’ or ‘protocol’ for at least the two (2) previous years or ➔ proof of clinical practice for at least two (2) years and proof of successful course completion or ➔ proof of clinical practice in Alberta or BC¹ in the previous two (2) years or ➔ Proof of authorization to self-initiate in Nova Scotia² or ➔ Proof of completed mentorship <u>and</u> Proof of conditional authorization under Stream Two or Three. 	Full	No limitation

¹ Dental hygienists in the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia are authorized under provincial legislation to self-initiate upon registration.

² Nova Scotia dental hygienists must meet the following criteria to be authorized to self-initiate in that province. Regulation Section 8 (1) (h) for an applicant who intends to engage in self-directed clinical practice and for an applicant applying for a practising licence two (2) years after being issued an initial licence under the Act, they must (i) have successfully completed the self-initiation module.

Stream	Eligibility	Requirements	Authorization Level	Term
Two	<p>Currently holds a general or specialty certificate with the CDHO, is in good standing, graduated from a dental hygiene program but does not meet the eligibility requirements of Stream One and who:</p> <p>a) has completed <i>either</i> a CDHO-approved clinical refresher course or the CDHA self-initiation course within the previous 24 months <u>and</u></p> <p>b) is being mentored by a CDHO-approved mentor³</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Application⁴ (fee waived) ➔ Good standing ➔ Certificate of successful completion of the CDHO-approved refresher⁵ course or the CDHA self-initiation course ➔ Mentorship contract with a CDHO-approved mentor for a minimum 6-month term 	Conditional ⁶	Minimum six (6) months, expires in 12 months (renewable)

³ To qualify as a CDHO-approved mentor, applicants must be registered with the College, have a minimum five (5) years' clinical experience including a minimum of two (2) years with authorization to self initiate and be in good standing. They must also successfully complete the CDHO mentorship course (under development).

⁴ The application fee for a conditional authorization under Streams Two and Three would be waived but would apply when the registrant applies for full authorization under Stream One.

⁵ CDHO maintains a list of approved clinical refresher courses. The course outline matches that of the CDHA Self-initiation Course.

⁶ Authorization to self-initiate with conditions permits a registrant to decide, based on a comprehensive health assessment, to proceed with the controlled act of scaling teeth, root planing and curettage of the surrounding tissue without the order requirement, while under the mentorship of a CDHO-approved mentor. Removes the current requirement of a standing order.

Stream	Eligibility	Requirements	Authorization Level	Term
Three	<p>Currently holds a general or specialty certificate with the CDHO, is in good standing, but does not meet the eligibility requirements of Stream One and graduated from an accredited⁷ dental hygiene program after January 1, 2013⁸ who:</p> <p>a) is being mentored by a CDHO-approved mentor⁹</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Application (fee waived) ➔ Good standing with relevant regulatory body ➔ Mentorship contract with a CDHO-approved mentor for a minimum 6-month term 	Conditional ¹⁰	Minimum six (6) months, expires in 12 months (renewable)

7 Currently, all dental hygiene programs with graduates after this date are accredited. Should an institution lose its accreditation status, the graduates would no longer be eligible to apply under Stream Three. They would be required to apply under Stream Two which includes an additional requirement to successfully complete a CDHO-approved refresher course or the CDHA Self-initiation Course.

8 Eligibility date for consideration as a graduate of the expanded dental hygiene curriculum.

9 Recognizes that the expanded dental hygiene curriculum provides more opportunity for students to be evaluated on their knowledge of, and ability to, self-initiate their authorized acts.

10 Supports new graduates by giving them authorization to self-initiate with condition that the registrant is mentored by a CDHO-approved mentor.

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