

Written Assessment for Registration – Information to Applicants

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Written Assessment for Registration will give you the opportunity to demonstrate that your knowledge, skills and judgment are current and that you are competent to return to practice as a dental hygienist in Ontario. Full details regarding the assessment are contained in this document. You are advised to read it thoroughly.

Please call the Manager, Registration at 416-961-6234 ext. 244, toll-free 1-800-268-2346, or email registration@cdho.org if you have any questions.

DATE AND TIME

The assessment will take place on a set date and time in a small group setting at the CDHO office. The specific date and time will be announced once interest has been gauged. You will be notified when a date has been determined, prior to submitting your application to participate in the Written Assessment.

LOCATION

College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario
175 Bloor Street East, North Tower, Suite 601
Toronto, Ontario M4W 3R8

WRITTEN ASSESSMENT FEES

The fee to participate in the Written Assessment for Registration is \$675 for the first attempt. A reduced fee of \$575 applies if you are also submitting an application to participate in the Clinical Competency Evaluation for Registration at the same time. The fee for the subsequent attempts for the Written Assessment is \$575 per attempt. Please see **Number of Attempts** (below) for more information on the maximum number of attempts allowed for the Written Assessment.

Fees are due upon approval of the application and must be paid prior to the assessment. Payment can be made online by Visa or MasterCard (including Visa Debit and MasterCard Debit) after the application has been approved, or you can submit with your application a certified cheque or money order payable to CDHO in Canadian funds. **CDHO cannot accept personal cheques or cash.** Failure to make payment may result in the cancellation of your application and loss of your reserved space for the assessment date.

NUMBER OF ATTEMPTS

Candidates are permitted a total of three (3) attempts at the Written Assessment for Registration. There is a fee for *each* attempt (see above, *Written Assessment Fees*). If you are unsuccessful after the third attempt, your application will be referred to the Registration Committee for consideration. The Committee may require you to complete an additional course or courses prior to being granted a general certificate of registration.

IDENTIFICATION

You will be required to present photo identification issued by a federal or provincial authority, such as a passport, driver's licence, etc., prior to and during the Written Assessment. You will not be permitted to participate in the assessment if you do not bring suitable identification.

ASSESSMENT FORMAT

The Written Assessment for Registration is a 100-question, multiple-choice proctored exam that takes place at the CDHO office in a small group setting. The assessment is open book (you would provide your own books) and it is available in either English or French. You will be given two (2) hours to complete the assessment.

ASSESSMENT BLUEPRINT

Based on accepted examination guidelines, reasonable question/time ratio is one (1) minute per question. The Written Assessment for Registration is designed to ensure that you have sufficient knowledge of dental hygiene theory and practice by asking you to answer knowledge, application, and critical thinking questions.

Knowledge questions combine the ability to recall previously learned material and show that you understand its meaning. These questions may include definitions, facts, principles or interpreting data. Knowledge questions make up about 20%-30% of the assessment.

Application questions require the application of knowledge to new situations and may include applying rules and theories to the provision of dental hygiene care. Application questions account for about 45%-55% of the assessment.

Critical thinking questions are higher-level problems that may require skills such as solving problems, judging the relevance of data, and determining cause and effect. Critical thinking questions make up about 20%-30% of the assessment.

Each question stem will refer to only one question and will have three or four multiple choice options associated with it. There will not be any case studies that require you to answer multiple questions.

The passing score for any given test will be unique to the combination of questions that appear on that particular test. For example, a test that has a combination of more difficult questions will not have a passing score as high as a test that has a combination of easier questions on it. The questions that appear on any test will be completely randomized but will match the blueprint for the competencies and types of question (see table on page 5).

TABLE: ASSESSMENT BLUEPRINT

COMPETENCIES	PERCENT OF EXAM
Community health	5
Emergency protocols	7
Health and safety/WHMIS	5
Infection prevention and control	22
Pharmacology	7
Process of care	20
Professionalism/communication	7
Radiography (exposure and interpretation)	5
Special needs/medically compromised	7
Jurisprudence/ethics/record keeping	15
Totals	100

PREPARING FOR THE WRITTEN ASSESSMENT

The questions on the Written Assessment for Registration will be based on the knowledge, skills and judgment needed to practise dental hygiene competently in Ontario. The following may be useful in helping to prepare for and take the exam:

- Any current dental hygiene textbook and/or dental hygiene review book
- CDHO Registrants' Handbook
- CDHO's Jurisprudence Education Module
- CDHO Drugs in Dental Hygiene Practice Course
- CDHO Knowledge Network
- CDHO Guidelines
- CDHO Legislation and Bylaws
- *Milestones* Publications
- Dental Drug Reference

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Written Assessment may include questions about the administration of local anaesthetic. Although this topic may not have been taught in Ontario when many currently practising dental hygienists graduated, it is now included as part of the curriculum in Ontario dental hygiene schools, thus, **questions regarding the administration of local anaesthetic may be encountered on the Written Assessment.**

RESULTS

Results from the Written Assessment for Registration will be forwarded to you in writing by mail and/or email within four weeks of completing the assessment. The CDHO cannot release results by telephone. Results will not be discussed with a third party, other than another dental hygiene regulatory body, unless written consent to do so has been submitted from you to CDHO in advance.

WRITTEN ASSESSMENT FOR REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO APPLICANTS

Candidates will not receive a final score or percentage, but will receive an overall exam result (i.e., either successful or unsuccessful). Additional feedback will include whether the standard was met or not in each of the ten question competencies (see **Assessment Blueprint**, above). This information can be used to help you identify areas of relative strengths and weaknesses if you need to prepare for another attempt. Being unsuccessful in a specific competency does not necessarily indicate that you will be unsuccessful on the assessment overall. **Notification of incorrect answers at the completion of the test will not be provided.**

In the event that you are not successful after the third attempt, you must make a full application for registration and submit it to the Registration Committee for further consideration. The Committee may require you to complete an additional course or courses prior to being granted a general certificate of registration.

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