

1 AN ACT concerning dental hygienists.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Illinois Dental Practice Act is amended  
5 by changing Section 18 as follows:

6 (225 ILCS 25/18) (from Ch. 111, par. 2318)  
7 (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2006)

8 Sec. 18. Acts constituting the practice of dental  
9 hygiene; limitations. A dental hygienist may be employed or  
10 engaged only:

- 11 (a) Under the supervision of a dentist:
  - 12 (1) In the office of a dentist;
  - 13 (2) By a federal, State, county or municipal  
14 agency or institution;
  - 15 (3) By a public or private school; or
  - 16 (4) By a public clinic operating under the  
17 direction of a hospital or federal, State, county,  
18 municipal or other public agency or institution.

19 When employed or engaged pursuant to this paragraph (a) a  
20 dental hygienist may perform the following procedures and  
21 acts:

- 22 (i) the operative procedure of dental hygiene,  
23 consisting of oral prophylactic procedures;
- 24 (ii) the exposure and processing of X-Ray  
25 films of the teeth and surrounding structures;
- 26 (iii) the application to the surfaces of the  
27 teeth or gums of chemical compounds designed to be  
28 desensitizing agents or effective agents in the  
29 prevention of dental caries or periodontal disease;
- 30 (iv) all services which may be performed by a  
31 dental assistant as specified by rule pursuant to

1 Section 17;

2 (v) administration and monitoring of nitrous  
3 oxide upon successful completion of a training  
4 program approved by the Department of Professional  
5 Regulation;

6 (vi) administration of local anesthetics upon  
7 successful completion of a training program approved  
8 by the Department; and

9 (vii) such other procedures and acts as shall  
10 be prescribed by rule or regulation of the  
11 Department.

12 (b) Under the general supervision of a dentist in a  
13 long-term care facility licensed by the State of  
14 Illinois, or a mental health or developmental disability  
15 facility operated by the Department of Human Services, if  
16 the patient is unable to travel to a dental office  
17 because of illness or infirmity. The dentist shall  
18 personally examine and diagnose the patient and determine  
19 which services are necessary to be performed, which shall  
20 be contained in a written order to the hygienist. Such  
21 order must be implemented within 90 days of its issuance,  
22 and an updated medical history and oral inspection must  
23 be performed by the hygienist immediately prior to  
24 beginning the procedures to ensure that the patient's  
25 health has not changed in any manner to warrant a  
26 reexamination by the dentist.

27 (c) Without the supervision of a dentist, a dental  
28 hygienist may perform dental health education functions  
29 and may record case histories and oral conditions  
30 observed.

31 The number of dental hygienists practicing in a dental  
32 office shall not exceed, at any one time, 4 times the number  
33 of dentists practicing in the office at the time.

34 (Source: P.A. 91-594, eff. 1-1-00; 91-689, eff. 1-1-01.)