

# Dental hygiene clinics and mobile practices – Increasing access to care

With the focus on prevention and the growing scientific evidence linking good oral health to overall health, dental hygienists are valued partners in Ontario's health-care system. Independent dental hygienists are a key component in the delivery of health-care services, ensuring the public has access to oral care and treatment.

Independently run clinics and mobile practices are located in many city centres and rural settings across Ontario. Dental hygiene services are extremely important for long-term care and group homes, community health centres, the sick and homebound, low-income families, the uninsured and underserved communities.

As well as improving public access to oral care, the cost for professional services provided by independent dental hygienists may be considerably lower than those same services provided in a traditional dental office.

## A pathway to good health

All dental hygienists are concerned with promoting good oral health. As valuable members of the oral health-care team, they have a distinctive clinical and educational role in recognizing, treating and managing oral diseases.

Dental hygienists are regulated health-care professionals. They must follow strict standards of practice set by the regulatory college to ensure the public receives safe and ongoing comprehensive oral care.

Maintaining good oral health requires collaboration. Dental hygienists consult with other health-care



professionals – including dentists, physicians, nurses, dietitians and pharmacists – and make referrals when appropriate.

## Dental hygienists - Your partners in oral health

To locate a dental hygiene clinic or mobile practice, check the local directory or visit the ODHA website at [www.odha.on.ca](http://www.odha.on.ca).

*As professional health-care providers, dental hygienists are primarily concerned with promoting good oral health. Dental hygiene is among the largest of the regulated healthcare professions in the province. In Ontario all dental hygienists are registered with the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario, which regulates the profession to ensure the public receives safe and ongoing comprehensive oral care.*

VFS19.1  
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