

DELAWARE STATE DENTAL SOCIETY
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Team Approach to
Fighting Gum Disease

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STANDARDS FOR
CLINICAL DENTAL
HYGIENE PRACTICE

- perform oral healthcare and risk assessments that include the review of patients' health history, taking and recording blood pressure, dental and periodontal charting, oral cancer screening and evaluation of oral disease/health;

- evaluating a patient's current health status including all medications;

- perform an extraoral and intraoral examination and oral cancer screening;

- complete a comprehensive dental and periodontal charting that includes a detailed description and evaluation of the gingiva and periodontium;

- develop a dental hygiene diagnosis², 5-10 (as a component of the dental diagnosis) based on the oral health findings;

- expose, process, and interpret dental radiographs (x-rays);

- remove biofilm plaque and calculus (soft and hard deposits) from teeth both coronal and apical to (above and below) the gingival margin (gumline) using dental instruments;

- apply caries-preventive agents such as fluorides and sealants to the teeth;

- discuss the progress being made toward isolating evidence that notes the potential association between systemic and oral health and disease;
- administer local controlled and sustained release antimicrobial agents;
- administer pain control agents such as local anesthetic and /or nitrous oxide analgesia;
- provide patient education on biofilm plaque

- provide patient education on biofilm plaque control and home care protocol by incorporating techniques and products that will become part of an individualized self-care oral hygiene program;
- counsel and coordinate tobacco cessation programs; and
- educate patients on the importance of good nutrition for maintaining optimal oral health.11

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