

## SUBCHAPTER 16W - PUBLIC HEALTH HYGIENISTS

### SECTION .0100 - PUBLIC HEALTH HYGIENISTS

#### 21 NCAC 16W .0101 DIRECTION DEFINED

Pursuant to G.S. 90-233(a), a public health hygienist may perform clinical procedures under the direction of a licensed dentist, as defined by 21 NCAC 16Y .0104(c) of this Chapter, who is employed by a State government dental public health program or a local health department as a public health dentist. The specific clinical procedures delegated to the hygienist must be completed, in accordance with a written order from the dentist, within 60 days of the dentist's in-person evaluation of the patient. The dentist's evaluation of the patient shall include a complete oral examination, thorough health history and diagnosis of the patient's condition. Direction of a licensed dentist is not required for public health hygienists who provide only educational information, such as instruction in brushing and flossing.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-223; 90-233(a);  
Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 1999;  
Eff. April 1, 2001;  
Amended Eff. July 1, 2015.*

#### 21 NCAC 16W .0102 TRAINING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH HYGIENISTS

(a) Prior to performing clinical procedures pursuant to G.S. 90-233(a) under the direction of a duly licensed dentist, a public health hygienist must have:

- (1) five years of experience in clinical dental hygiene;
- (2) current CPR certification, taken in a live hands-on course;
- (3) six hours of continuing education in medical emergencies each year in addition to the minimum continuing education required for license renewal; and
- (4) such other training as may be required by the Dental Health Section of the Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) For purposes of this Rule, a minimum of 4,000 hours performing primarily prophylaxis or periodontal debridement under the supervision of a duly licensed dentist shall be equivalent to five years experience in clinical dental hygiene.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-223; 90-233(a);  
Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 1999;  
Eff. April 1, 2001;  
Amended Eff. July 1, 2015.*

#### 21 NCAC 16W .0103 TRAINING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH HYGIENISTS PERFORMING PREVENTIVE PROCEDURES

(a) Public health hygienists who provide only educational and preventive procedures such as application of fluorides, fluoride varnishes, and oral screenings, and not clinical procedures, shall be subject to the training provisions set out in Paragraph (b) of this Rule instead of the training provisions required by 21 NCAC 16W .0102.

(b) A public health hygienist may perform preventive procedures as set out in Paragraph (a) of this Rule under the direction of a duly licensed public health dentist if the hygienist:

- (1) maintains CPR certification; and
- (2) completes such other training as may be required by the Oral Health Section of the Department of Health and Human Services.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-223; 90-233(a);  
Temporary Adoption Eff. February 8, 2000;  
Eff. April 1, 2001.*