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. (L.D. 1457) Bill "An Act To Improve Access to Dental Hygiene by Authorizing Dental Hygienists To Perform Dental Hygiene Diagnosis" and 1457 expands the DH scope to provide local anesthesia under general supervision (HP1073) (Presented by Representative GROHOSKI, N. of Ellsworth) (Cosponsored by Representative BROOKS, H. of Lewiston, Representative CRAVEN, M. of Lewiston, Representative WHITE, B. of Waterville)

The dental hygiene process of care includes; assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, evaluation, and documentation. This employs the use of critical thinking to interpret assessment data, identify health behaviors and risks and provides the basis for which treatment planning is determined to be either therapeutic or preventive (Boyd, Mallonee, & Wyche, 2021).

This is taught in dental hygiene schools and is central to what dental hygienists do. The dental hygiene diagnosis is the term the dental accreditation association (CODA) uses when defining the scope of practice that directs the curriculum of dental hygiene institutions. Also, expanding the dental hygiene scope to provide local anesthesia under general supervision would allow for necessary therapy to be performed in satellite locations when the dentist is not physically present. Local anesthesia is a necessary component for comprehensive periodontal therapy, performing dental hygiene therapy without it is providing substandard care. Being able to perform treatment without the dentist on site will allow for more access to care for Maine residents.

Work Cited

Boyd, L., Mallonee, L., & Wyche, C. (2021). Wilkins' Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist. Boston: Jones and Bartlett.