

Skill Sets Description

1) Patient Assessment

A. Review Medical History

1. gather information from a medical history, asking necessary follow-up questions for maximum information
2. relate information gathered to need for medical consult, patient treatment modifications, risk assessment

B. Review Dental History

1. gather information from a dental history, including primary patient concern, asking necessary follow-up questions for maximum information
2. relate information gathered to choices of treatment, patient education, treatment modifications and risk assessment

C. Vital Signs (BP, Pulse)

1. accurately take BP and pulse
2. analyze findings related to need for medical consult, treatment modifications, need to take vital signs at all appointments, risk assessment

D. Medical Emergencies

1. recognize methods for preventing medical emergencies in the dental office environment, recognize patient risk for various emergencies, describe training/drills needed by health care providers
2. list the necessary contents of an office emergency cart and relate each item to its use
3. recognize medical emergency signs and symptoms and accurately relate them to necessary treatment
4. respond to actual or fictitious emergencies in an efficient, effective manner

2) Oral Evaluation/Treatment Plan

A. Intra/Extra Oral Exam

1. Look, feel, assess all areas of the mouth and head/neck, including various characteristics of the gingiva and periodontal area
2. Compare findings to normal expectations
3. Note findings, using them to generate an individualized dental hygiene treatment plan
4. Flag questionable findings for dentist's/physician's evaluation

B. Existing Restoration Charting

1. Note findings from oral exam and radiographs
2. Note impact existing restorations and their condition might have on oral health
3. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

C. Tissue Level Charting

1. Note areas of recession or tissue enlargement relative to the CEJ
2. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

D. Periodontal Charting (Other)

1. Note mobility, areas of mucogingival defects, bleeding points, furcation involvement, frenal problems
2. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

E. Periodontal Probing

1. Note accurate sulcus depth (the deepest in each of 6 areas around each tooth)
2. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

F. Indices: Plaque

1. PHP, O'Leary, Plaque index, Plaque Free Score, Simplified Oral Hygiene Index, etc
2. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

G. Indices: Gingival

1. PSR, Bleeding indices, etc.
2. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

H. Intraoral Camera Documentation

Use intraoral camera to note findings, create images to enhance patient education, dental hygiene and dental treatment planning, record existing conditions for insurance purposes

I. Restorative Needs Assessment

1. Assess for caries, recurrent decay, overhangs, open contacts related to restorations, periapical pathology, etc
2. Utilize all sources of information, visual, tactile, x-ray images, transillumination, patient's reported symptoms

J. Radiographs: Horizontal BWX

1. Expose and evaluate quality of horizontal BWX
2. Note possible pathology findings from images
3. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

K. Radiographs: Vertical BWX

1. Expose and evaluate quality of vertical BWX
2. Note possible pathology findings from images
3. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

L. Radiographs: Complete Series

1. Expose and evaluate quality of complete series radiographs
2. Note possible pathology findings from images
3. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

M. Radiographs: Periapicals

1. Expose and evaluate quality of individual periapical images
2. Note possible pathology findings from images
3. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

N. Radiographs: Panorex

1. Expose and evaluate quality of panoramic image
2. Note possible pathology findings from images
3. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

O. Radiographs: Digital

1. Expose and evaluate quality of digital images
2. Note possible pathology findings from images
3. Relate findings to dental hygiene treatment planning and risk assessment

P. Dental Hygiene Treatment Plan

1. Develop an individualized dental hygiene treatment plan after all assessment data has been gathered
2. Present the plan to the patient verbally or in writing

3) Oral Health Instruction

B. Nutritional Counseling

1. Perform assessment of quality of nutrient intake by patient
2. Assess impact of this intake on the patient's oral health
3. Suggest modifications to increase effectiveness
4. Utilize sound principles of patient motivation to bring about lasting behavioral changes

C. Tobacco Cessation Counseling

1. Perform assessment of patient's tobacco use
2. Assess patient readiness to undertake tobacco cessation counseling
3. Provide counseling or refer to local resources

D. Brushing/Flossing/Other Aids Demonstration

1. Perform assessment of effectiveness of patient plaque/debris removal
2. Assess impact of this removal on the patient's oral health
3. Suggest modifications to increase effectiveness
4. Utilize sound principles of patient motivation to bring about lasting behavioral changes

4) Clinical Care

A. Scaling: Universal Curets

Using universal curets, remove deposits effectively with no trauma to surrounding tissue

B. Scaling: Gracey Curets

Using Gracey curets, remove deposits effectively with no trauma to surrounding tissue

C. Scaling: Sickle Scalars

Using sickle scalars, remove deposits effectively with no trauma to surrounding tissue

D. Scaling: Specialty Curets

Using specialty curets, remove deposits effectively with no trauma to surrounding tissue

E. Root Planing

1. Using curets, remove deposits from root surfaces effectively with no trauma to surrounding tissue
2. Using multi-directional strokes, leave smooth root surface with minimal changes in surface integrity

G. Polishing - Rotary Instrument

Using handpiece and polishing cup and prophylactic paste/polish remove extrinsic stains from teeth

H. In-Office Fluoride

Apply fluoride gel/foam using tray/cotton-tipped applicator or apply fluoride varnish

I. Ultrasonic Scaler

Remove deposits using ultrasonic/piezo instrumentation

5) Clinical Care (Other)

A. Application of Desensitizing Solution

1. Assess patient's need for procedure
2. Apply agent (Dentin-Bloc, Gluma, etc) according to manufacturer's guidelines

B. Abrasive Polishing

Using prophylactic jet-like instrument, remove extrinsic stains from teeth

C. Subgingival Irrigation

1. Assess patient's need for procedure
2. Choose effective agent
3. Place agent and give post operative instructions

D. Amalgam Polishing

1. Assess patient's need for procedure
2. Working from most abrasive to least abrasive, polish amalgam restorations without modifying the anatomy of the restoration but removing tarnish and overhanging margins

E. Pit and Fissure Sealants

1. Assess patient's need for procedure
2. Apply sealant material to designated tooth surfaces using manufacturer's guidelines

F. Periodontal Pak Removal

Remove periodontal dressing previously placed without disturbing underlying tissue or causing patient undue discomfort

G. Application of Chemotherapeutics

1. Assess patient's need for procedure
2. Choose effective agent
3. Place agent and give post operative instructions

H. Study Model Impressions

Take impression for study model

I. Bleaching Tray Impressions

Fabricate bleaching tray according to dentist's specifications

J. Suture Removal

Remove sutures without disturbing healing tissue or causing patient undue discomfort

K. Place Temporary Restoration

1. Place temporary restoration when necessary
2. Effectively match oral anatomy

L. Processing of Radiographs

1. Ensure effective processing of radiographs
2. Mount radiographs/digital images according to office practices

M. Rationale and Use of Topical Anesthetic

1. Determine indications/contraindications for its use
2. Apply according to manufacturer's guidelines

N. Rationale and Use of Local Anesthetic

1. Determine indications/contraindications for its use
2. Effectively and safely deliver local anesthetic
3. Demonstrate ability to respond effectively to possible patient reactions

Q. Infection Control Procedures

1. Maintain chain of asepsis during all procedures
2. Maintain chain of asepsis during all pre and post procedural activities

6) Recall

A. Periodontal Re-evaluation

Reassess patient's oral health/prevention skills and compliance and re-treat or refer accordingly

B. Dental Appliance Maintenance

Educate patient concerning required personal care

C. Implant Maintenance

1. Assess the integrity of existing implants
2. Remove deposits using only plastic instruments
3. Instruct the patient in necessary changes in patient care of the implant to increase chance of long-term integrity

D. Care of Oral Prosthesis

Remove debris from prosthesis/appliance

7) Non-Clinical

A. Instrument Sharpening

1. Accurately assess need for sharpening
2. Effectively sharpen instruments without modifying basic instrument design
3. Evaluate integrity of instrument after sharpening

D. Administrative Tasks (Appt. Scheduling, Filing)

1. Make patient appointments including filling cancellations
2. File paper forms according to office protocols
3. Enter information into digital files when dental office software is available
4. Answer the office phone and give accurate information, assisting the caller whenever possible