
STATE DENTAL BOARD

- Specifies that the requirement that a dentist perform an examination and diagnose a patient before the patient receives dental hygiene services through certain school-based or other programs does not apply when the only services to be provided are the administration of fluoride mouth rinse and the placement of pit and fissure sealants.
- Authorizes the Director of Health to determine that certified dental assistants or expanded function dental auxiliaries (EFDAs) may administer fluoride mouth rinse or apply pit and fissure sealants without a dentist being present or a dentist examining the patient before the service.
- Authorizes certified dental assistants and EFDAs to apply sealants and administer fluoride mouth rinse under the conditions described above.

Sealant placements and fluoride mouth rinse administration

Dental hygienists

(R.C. 4715.22)

Under current law, a dental hygienist who provides dental hygiene services as part of a dental hygiene program²² that is approved by the State Dental Board (and who is not practicing under a special permit authorizing practice under the oral health access supervision of a dentist) may provide dental hygiene services to a patient when the supervising dentist is not physically present at the location where the services are provided. For this to occur, three requirements must be met. One of those is that the services must be performed in accordance with a dentist's treatment plan after the dentist has examined and diagnosed the patient.

The bill specifies that this requirement does not apply under two circumstances:

²² The program must be operated through a school district board of education or the governing board of an educational service center; a local board of health; a national, state, district, or local dental association; or any other public or private entity recognized by the State Dental Board.



(1) When the dental hygienist places pit and fissure sealants on the patient's teeth. (Pit and fissure sealants are thin plastic coatings that are applied to the grooves on the chewing surfaces of the back teeth to protect them from tooth decay.²³)

(2) When the dental hygienist administers fluoride mouth rinse to students through the school-based fluoride mouth rinse program that the ODH Director may establish under existing law.²⁴

Certified dental assistants and expanded function dental auxiliaries

(R.C. 3701.138, 4715.39, and 4715.64)

The bill authorizes the Director of Health to determine that dental assistants certified by the Dental Assisting National Board or the Ohio Commission on Dental Assistant Certification, expanded function dental auxiliaries (EFDAs) registered by the State Dental Board, or both, may do either or both of the following without a dentist being physically present or a dentist examining a patient before the service:

--Apply pit and fissure sealants through a program operated by a school district board of education or the governing board of an educational service center;

--Administer fluoride mouth rinse to a student who receives services from a school-based fluoride mouth rinse program that the Director is authorized to establish under existing law.²⁵

Depending on the determinations the Director makes, the bill authorizes certified dental assistants, EFDAs, or both, to perform the described services without a dentist being physically present or a dentist examining a patient before the service.

Under current law, a certified dental assistant may apply pit and fissure sealants only after certain requirements are met. One of those is that on the day the application is to be performed, a dentist must evaluate the patient and designate the teeth and surfaces that will benefit from sealant application. An EFDA is prohibited from performing any service (including applying sealants) when a supervising dentist is not physically present at the location where the EFDA is practicing.

²³ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Dental Sealants*, available at www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/factsheets/sealants_faq.htm.

²⁴ R.C. 3701.136, not in the bill.

²⁵ R.C. 3701.136, not in the bill.

