
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 service to be provided is the placement of pit and fissure sealants.

Sealant placement by dental hygienists

(R.C. 4715.22)

Under continuing law, a dental hygienist who provides dental hygiene services as part of a dental hygiene program²⁴ approved by the State Dental Board may provide dental hygiene services to a patient when the supervising dentist is not physically present. One condition, however, 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 act provides that the requirement regarding a dentist's treatment plan, examination, and diagnosis does not apply when the only service to be provided by the dental hygienist is the placement of 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.²⁵

²⁴ 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.

²⁵ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Dental Sealants*, available at www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/factsheets/sealants_faq.htm.

