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*Clinical Practice  
of the*

# Dental Hygienist

Ninth Edition

*Esther M. Wilkins*



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*Clinical Practice*  
*of the* **Dental  
Hygienist**  
Ninth Edition

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*Clinical Practice*  
*of the*

# **Dental Hygienist**

Ninth Edition

*The ninth edition of Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist is dedicated to all past and present students who have studied from the eight preceding editions. Also to their teachers in the many different dental hygiene programs around the world, for their leadership in, and devotion to, dental hygiene education.*

*A very special recognition goes to the students of the first ten classes in dental hygiene at the University of Washington in Seattle for whom the original "mimeographed" syllabus was created. They are remembered with much appreciation because their need for text study material made this book possible in the first place.*

*Esther Wilkins*

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# Preface

During the 45 years since the original publication of *Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist*, many changes have influenced what constitutes adequate clinical practice and the significance of the role of the dental hygienist in oral disease prevention and health promotion. Extensions in scientific knowledge and technical inventions have had major impact on the profession of dental hygiene.

The new research on dental biofilm clarifies the need to treat dental caries and periodontal diseases as infectious and communicable. Emphasis on a patient's personal risk factors and the interwoven effects of oral health and systemic conditions finally brings to the front that needed medical-dental tie. New requirements for standard infection control during clinical practice have introduced improved levels for the safety of patients and dental healthcare personnel. Identification and treatment of early periodontal conditions and the determination of prognosis and outcomes from dental hygiene therapy show the significant role of dental hygienists in total patient oral care.

## OBJECTIVES

The preface of the first edition of the book opened with: *"The major purpose of this book is to provide the dental hygienist with a comprehensive outline of the principles and techniques of dental hygiene care and instruction for the individual patient. It is hoped that through greater understanding of the patient's oral and general health needs, more complete and effective service may be rendered. It is expected that the book will be useful as a textbook for preclinical and clinical theory and practice courses for students, as a reference and guide for practicing dental hygienists, and as a source of review material for temporarily retired dental hygienists with plans for returning to practice."*

As the ninth edition comes into use, the same basic objectives hold true. To be sure, the knowledge and skills needed to reach the competency required for contemporary practice have greatly widened. Evidence-based practice provides security in the realization that the patient is receiving the best possible service to meet individual needs.

## THE NEW EDITION

Many chapters were extensively revised, while others required minimal change.

The new chapters are Chapter 24, Protocols for the Prevention and Control of Dental Caries; Chapter 46, Pediatric Oral Health Care: Infancy Through Age 5; Chapter 57, Family Abuse and Neglect; and Chapter 62, The Patient with a Respiratory Disease.

Other chapters have been combined, namely, Chapter 6, Records and Charting, and Chapter 28, The Patient with Orthodontic Appliances. Two chapters have been divided, Chapter 21, Planning Dental Hygiene Care, and Chapter 22, The Dental Hygiene Care Plan, and Chapter 26, Interdental Care, and Chapter 27, Chemotherapeutics and Topical Delivery Systems.

## TEXTBOOK SECTIONS

*Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist* is divided into seven sections. Section I includes an orientation to the profession of dental hygiene with a detailed explanation of the Dental Hygiene Process of Care. Sections II through VI have their foundation on the Dental Hygiene Process of Care to include assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, care planning, implementation, and evaluation. Section VII describes a variety of patients needing special care because of age, systemic health problems, or disability.

- Section I. Orientation to Clinical Dental Hygiene Practice
- Section II. Preparation for Dental Hygiene Appointments
- Section III. Patient Assessment
- Section IV. Care Planning
- Section V. Prevention
- Section VI. Treatment
- Section VII. Patients with Special Needs

Supplementary information is available in the added section on Prefixes, Suffixes, and Combining Forms. Appendices provide the Codes of Ethics of both the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Canadian Dental Hygienists' Association, and the Recommendations from the *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings—2003*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## DENTAL HYGIENE ETHICS

A special new feature of the ninth edition is the introduction of a theme of dental hygiene ethics throughout



the text, which has been prepared by Donna Homenko. The text portion starts with the introductory material in Chapter 1 and continues in each of the introductions to the Sections. With the knowledge that each dental hygiene program may have a full credit course in ethics, the objective here is to provide integration with the clinical textbook and experiences.

Each chapter has, near the end of the chapter, a short case titled Everyday Ethics, which presents either an ethical issue or a dilemma, with questions for consideration to open a discussion of possible solutions. Opportunities for use of the Everyday Ethics appear in both the Student Workbook and the Instructors' Website.

## STUDENT WORKBOOK

The first workbook of its kind for dental hygiene accompanies the main text of *Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist*. The workbook, authored by Charlotte Wyche, provides a variety of experiences to help students learn the important concepts that are the basis for dental hygiene practice.

Exercises are designed to take students from basic *knowledge* (ability to recall and identify concepts from the text) through *competency* (being able to use information in the text to think critically and make decisions regarding patient care) and on to *discovery* (being able to use what was learned in the text to gather new, relevant information from sources other than in the text).

## INSTRUCTORS' WEBSITE

The first Instructors' Website to accompany *Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist* has been planned by Rhoda Gladstone and Cheryl Westphal. New information not included in the text is included and more may be added at a later time. The website will make available case studies, quiz questions, power point slides that provide lecture notes and slide images, and active learning exercises. Hyperlinks to websites and resources for each chapter can

provide relevant material. A feature will be using evidence-based learning to facilitate critical thinking.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ideas and recommendations come from many teachers, students, and practitioners from around the world. Any suggestion, whether for a whole new chapter or a simple word change, is considered and activated whenever possible. It is hoped that this new edition will bring forth comments and requests as in the past.

First, thanks go to all our contributors for their new or revised chapters. Dr. Donna Homenko, our contributor for the new ethics theme, has earned particular recognition for producing this new feature and presenting the Everyday Ethics appropriate to each chapter.

Much appreciation goes to Charlotte Wyche, who, through the Student Workbook, has added a new dimension to the teaching/learning capacity of the textbook. The Teachers' Website will provide a special means of communication with the devoted teachers around the world. To Rhoda Gladstone and Cheryl Westphal and their faculty at the New York University, we owe a debt of gratitude.

The illustrations for this and two previous editions have been the work of the talented artist Marcia Williams of Newton Highlands, Massachusetts. Her personal interest and patience in preparing the new artwork and adding color for selected previously used art is very sincerely appreciated. Many thanks to Emily Williams who has done such skillful work in producing the computerized copies of many chapters that they required practically no changes when they came through production.

As stated in the first edition, the author and contributors will feel amply rewarded if *Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist* helps dental hygienists to understand and meet more completely the oral health needs of their patients.

Esther M. Wilkins

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