

DENTAL HEALTH AIDE RE-ENTRY GUIDELINES

Sec 2.50.200(b)

INTRODUCTION

The Dental Health Aide (DHA) Program recognizes the need for standardized guidelines for Dental Health Aides after an extended absence from direct patient care. If their certification has lapsed, the applicant will also follow 2.50.300.

GOALS

To maintain Dental Health Aide clinical competency and ensure the delivery of quality health care to Alaska Native residents.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Clinical Absence - A period during which the individual has not worked as a DHA doing direct patient care for a minimum of 40 hours and 20 patient encounters.

Extended Clinical Absence – A Clinical Absence greater than 6 months

Appropriate Supervisor – See section 2.30.010(a)

GUIDELINES FOR DHA RE-ENTRY

Training Level	Length of Clinical Absence	Guidelines
PDHA I and II EFDHA I and II DHAH, DHAT, DHATP	≤ 6 months	-Discretion of Appropriate Supervisor
	> 6 months < 2 years	-Clinical Competency Evaluation as defined by the Recertification Process in Sec. 3.10.050 (a)(1)(B) done by an Appropriate Supervisor
	≥ 2 years	-Clinical competency evaluation as defined by the corresponding Preceptorship Process listed in Sec. 2.30.020(a)(2) done by an Appropriate Supervisor.

RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE OF EMPLOYER

1. Coordinate the Re-Entry process.
2. Provide orientation to the staff and DHA involved in the Re-Entry process.
3. Obtain copies of certification documents.
4. Facilitate BLS training as needed.
5. Make sure that these decisions and the supervision required are done by an Appropriate Supervisor as defined by 2.30.010(a) who has an understanding of the DHA clinical evaluation process.
6. Develop an individualized plan based on the above guidelines.

ROLE OF DHA

1. Participate actively in her/his own learning.
2. Help select appropriate patient encounters.
3. Ensure appropriate documentation is maintained.
4. Help make sure that all requirements are met.

ROLE OF APPROPRIATE SUPERVISOR COMPLETING CLINICAL EVALUATION

1. Provide adequate number of patient encounters to evaluate clinical skills competency.
2. Observe and evaluate appropriateness of assessments and plans.
3. Observe and evaluate clinical skills.
4. Co-sign completed chart notes.
5. Determine if DHA has met competency requirements.
6. Review the overall performance with the DHA.
7. Make any needed modifications to clinical practice restrictions and/or standing orders.

RE-ENTRY PACKET CONTENTS

DHA Re-entry Guidelines (this document)
DHA/T Preceptorship Checklist; or
DHA/T Observation Log/Checklist for Recertification
DHA Application Initial/ Change in Level/ Renewal of Certification