

Frequently Asked Questions About

Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RDHAP)

What is An RDHAP?

An RDHAP is a Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice. An RDHAP has undergone further training and received an additional California State License that allows them to have their own independent business. This license allows the RDHAP to work in settings other than a dental office.

What Supervision is required?

No supervision is required. Just like a nurse practitioner, registered nurse or mid-wife there is no supervision required. RDHAP are independent practitioners.

Why was the RDHAP created and where can the RDHAP provide services?

To help improve the standard of dental health care to individuals residing in Skilled Nursing & Assisted Living Facilities, Retirement Homes, Board and Care, Homes for the Disabled and Private Residences. The RDHAP can also open a private office in areas where it has been deemed by the State of CA, a dental health professional shortage area.

How can RDHAPs be of value to residential facilities and families?

The RDHAP

- A. Uses professional dental equipment and treats patients in the comfort of their own home.
- B. Eliminates the need for costly and difficult transportation arrangements.
- C. Can be a link between administration, staff, families and community dental providers.

They can provide:

- 1) Oral evaluations
- 2) Oral Prophylaxis and Polishing (cleaning of bacteria and deposits above the gumline)
- 3) Non-surgical periodontal therapies (Cleaning of bacteria and deposits below the gumline)
- 4) Therapies for dry mouth and sensitive teeth
- 5) Fluoride treatments
- 6) Denture and partial denture cleaning
- 7) Strategies for prevention of cavities and gum disease
- 8) Customized direct care staff in-service training

How does the RDHAP get paid?

RDHAPs are independent providers who bill dental insurance companies, DENTI-CAL for those who reside in a SNF or ICF, and responsible private parties.

How do I contact an RDHAP to discuss a program for my facility or family member?

The website of the California Dental Hygienists' Association (www.cdha.org) has a roster of licensed, member RDHAPs listed by county.

What are client's rights for accessing and seeing an RDHAP?

Patient's rights include the right to choose their health care provider. According to California state law, the patients have the right to be informed about their medical condition, to see their own health care provider and the right to take part in developing their health care plan. In the event that the client is unable to make their own health care decisions this duty falls upon the guardian, conservator, next of kin, sponsoring agency, or representative payer.