

SUBCHAPTER 16W – PUBLIC HEALTH HYGIENISTS

SECTION .0100 - PUBLIC HEALTH HYGIENISTS

21 NCAC 16W .0101 DIRECTION DEFINED

- (a) A public health hygienist may perform clinical procedures under the direction of a licensed dentist, as defined by 21 NCAC 16A .0101(9), and in accordance with G.S. 90-233(a), provided the dentist ordering the procedure, or another dentist designated by the ordering dentist, is accessible, either in person or via teledentistry, for consultation while the hygienist is performing clinical procedures, and to provide any follow-up care the dentist determines to be clinically necessary.
- (b) The specific clinical procedures delegated to the hygienist shall be completed, in accordance with a written order from the dentist, within 270 calendar days of the dentist's in-person evaluation of the patient.
- (c) The dentist's evaluation of the patient shall include a comprehensive oral examination, medical and dental health history, and diagnosis of the patient's condition.
- (d) A public health hygienist may provide educational information, such as instruction in brushing and flossing, without the direction of a licensed dentist.

History Note: *Authority G.S. 90-30.2; 90-223; 90-233(a);*
 Temporary Adoption Eff. October 1, 1999;
 Eff. April 1, 2001;
 Amended Eff. April 1, 2016; July 1, 2015;
 Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9,
 2018;
 Amended Eff. June 1, 2025; February 1, 2020.