NBCDH INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONER REQUIREMENTS
September 2013

From the NBCDH point of view, when choosing to become an independent practitioner and offer dental hygiene services outside of traditional dental clinic, the registered dental hygienist must be very aware of the Dental Hygienists Act and the Rules in the area of scope of practice as a self-initiated dental hygienist and be very current on Canadian practice standards.

In establishing an independent business, the NBCDH recommends that the dental hygienist develop a formal business plan unless they have previous experience in setting up a new business. The NBCDH encourages any dental hygienist who wishes to become an independent practitioner to increase their personal liability insurance above the minimum required amount for licensure. The NBCDH strongly recommend that dental hygienist who wishes to pursue independent practice has had some years of experience in clinical practice.

To register with the NB College of Dental Hygienists and to practice independently:

A- All dental hygiene practices shall be registered with the NBCDH by submitting the following information:

1- *Registered business number (if applicable).*
2- *Unique Billing Number ID*
3- *Name of the Business and address*
4- *Description of the type of services that are going to be offered.*
5- *Must have received their self-initiation designation.*

B- A) All registrants must follow all recognized practice standards, national competencies and code of ethics adopted by the NBCDH. These include accepted infection control guidelines, accurate and detailed record keeping guidelines including adhering to strict Privacy and Safety of personal documentation of clients within the guidelines stated in the Canadian Privacy Act, and the NB Personal Health Information Privacy and Access Act in NB.

b) Dental hygiene practice must be evidence–based services.

c) Dental hygiene practice must utilize the Dental Hygiene Process of care: assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation.

d) All dental hygiene practices are subject to direct inspection of their standards by the NBCDH to ensure Public Safety.

e) Advertising
Advertising means to publish, display or distribute any advertisement, announcement or information made verbally, in print or by electronic media about or on behalf of a dental hygienist, a dental hygiene practice, clinic or group to the public in general. Any statement by a dental hygienist made in the course of an interview with the media is deemed to be advertising.

When advertising their services, the dental hygienist must ensure that any advertisement meets the following criteria:
- *The information is accurate and there is no false, fraudulent, ambiguous or likely to be confusing or misleading or deceptive.*
- *it is capable of being proven to be true by facts independent of personal opinions and interpretations(evidenced-based)*
- *It is dignified and in good taste so as to uphold the honor and ethics of the profession of dental hygiene and not bring the dental hygienist or the profession into disrespect.*
- *It does not make comparisons with another practice or practitioner, or suggest that the services provided are unique or superior to another practice or practitioner.*
- *It does not refer to the quality of the services provided.*
- *It is directed at the general public and not at an individual member of the public other than current clients on record.*
- *Advertising shall not disclose the name or identifying features of a client unless the client's prior written consent has been obtained.*
- *The information must be relevant to the public's ability to make an informed decision and choice. The information relevant includes the following information:*
    1) *Name*
    2) *Professional description*
    3) *Academic degrees gained by examinations*
    4) *Contact information: address, email , telephone and fax numbers*
    5) *Hours of operation*
    6) *Language spoken*
    7) *Services offered*
    8) *Universal symbols such as wheelchair accessibility, payments systems accepted-interact/credit cards*