



***Temporary Restorations
SDHA Position Statement***

March 2017

After carefully reviewing the body of evidence surrounding the history, indications for, and effectiveness of temporary restorations, the Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists' Association (SDHA) has determined that a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) in Saskatchewan may place temporary restorations, including Interim Stabilization Therapy (IST) and Atraumatic Restorative Treatment (ART), as per the SDHA Competencies and section 23(5)(c) of The Dental Disciplines Act (Act), provided that appropriate education and competency has been obtained.

Temporary restorations may be indicated for clients requiring a permanent restoration but access is not immediate or practical, client experiences discomfort, there are signs of dental disease or fractured teeth, or there's evidence of a displaced permanent filling. The material used for temporary restorations may include zinc-oxide eugenol, glass ionomer or other medicated/non-medicated temporary cements and resins.

IST and ART, specific types of temporary restorative therapies, are minimally invasive caries control procedures that provide temporary relief from dental discomfort and help prevent the progression of disease. The therapeutic properties of the fluoride-releasing restorative material help to remineralize the affected lesion, thereby stabilizing the tooth structure until a permanent restoration can be placed. ART involves the removal of soft, demineralized tooth tissue using hand instruments, followed by restoration of the tooth with a therapeutic material. ART was pioneered in the mid 1980's and has been endorsed by leading international health organizations, including the World Health Organization, and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. IST, a similar procedure, involves the removal of soft debris (plaque and/or food particles) from the lesion prior to the placement of fluoride-releasing material. IST was first adopted in 2010 by the Ontario Region First Nations and Inuit Health Branch alongside the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario to arrest dental disease in children in high-risk communities. Since then, this procedure has been an effective approach for other vulnerable populations, including adults and the frail or elderly.

To perform temporary restorations in Saskatchewan, including ART and IST, dental hygienists must:

- Complete an education program approved by the SDHA;
- Possess and demonstrate competency;
- Comply with all SDHA legislation, Practice Standards, and Competencies;
- Perform a comprehensive medical and oral health assessment prior to the placement of a temporary restoration;
- Ensure that the client and/or caregiver understand the temporary nature of the restoration; and
- Ensure that the client and/or caregiver understand the importance of imminent follow-up care by a dentist or dental therapist.

While “communicating a conclusion regarding dental caries” is not an authorized practice of dental hygienists in Saskatchewan, the necessity for a diagnosis of dental caries is not required to place temporary restorations. In accordance with the SDHA Competencies and the dental hygiene curriculum, RDH’s have the ability to:

- Assess intraoral hard tissues (e.g. discoloration of teeth, possible caries, tori, etc.) **(Assessment #31, pg 5)**
- Select evidence-based clinical interventions options based on the assessment data **(Planning # 6, pg 7)**
- Assess the need for consultation and referrals within the health care delivery system **(Assessment #54, pg 6)**
- Place temporary restorations **(Implementation #45, pg 11)**
- Use materials and equipment according to manufacturers’ specifications **(Implementation #62, pg 11)**
- Act as a client advocate (e.g. assisting the client to find treatment, communicating and referring the client’s needs to other health professionals, etc.) **(Implementation #52, pg 11)**

This position statement reflects the current evidence and is subject to periodic review and revisions with on-going research and consultation. If you have any questions regarding this policy, or regarding the IST/ART approved courses, please contact Kellie Watson, Registrar-Executive Director at sdha@sasktel.net or 306-931-7342, extension 2.

References

1. Health Canada- First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB, Interim Stabilization Therapy (IST) Protocol), Ontario Region, 2012
2. Alternative Restorative Technique Training Manual, Alberta and British Columbia Region, 2009.
3. Darby ML, Walsh MM. Application of the human needs conceptual model to dental hygiene practice. J Dent Hyg. 2000 Summer; 74(3):230-7.
4. The Dental Disciplines Act
5. The SDHA Competencies & Practice Standards

Acknowledgement

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