

Q. WHY IS CONSULTATION HAPPENING?

A. The Government of Saskatchewan approved a legislative change to repeal Section 25 of *The Dental Disciplines Act*, which currently requires dental hygienists to be employed by or under contract with a dentist. This amendment would shift some accountabilities to registrants, when practicing outside of an employee environment. We acknowledge that there are potential risks and benefits to the public with this shift and see it important to gather perspectives of all impacted groups and individuals.

Q. WHAT IS AN 'INDEPENDENT DENTAL HYGIENIST'?

A. For this consultation, *Independent Dental Hygienist* means a dental hygienist who is self-employed or employed by an entity they substantially control. The term relates to employment status, not scope of practice.

Q. WHAT ARE THE PROPOSED CHANGES?

A. The proposed change introduces additional requirements for dental hygienists to practice when self-employed, including:

- Holding a full licence (ability to administer local anesthesia)
- Maintaining current CPR certification with AED and oxygen therapy training
- Providing proof of at least 3,000 hours of clinical experience
- Demonstrating competence in business acumen
- Submitting an application to, and receiving approval from, the College
- Holding commercial general liability insurance of \$1 million or more
- If required, completing a facility or equipment inspection

Q. WHY ARE THESE REQUIREMENTS BEING INTRODUCED?

A. Public safety is dependent on the professionalism of the individual delivering service, the environmental controls or policies where care is being delivered (commonly set by an employer), and external protection (provided by the regulatory body). Since an *Independent Dental Hygienist* will take on the responsibilities normally managed by an employer, we are considering what safeguards should be required in a self-employed environment.

Q. HOW WILL THIS AFFECT CURRENT REGISTRANTS?

A. Dental hygienists working as employees in dentist-owned facilities or organizations with an established referral process will not be affected by the proposed amendments. Those practicing, or wishing to practice, independently must meet the requirements and apply for approval.

Q. HOW MANY DENTAL HYGIENISTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE IMPACTED?

A. Current records show that approximately 20 dental hygienists in Saskatchewan are practicing as *Independent Dental Hygienists* under the contract requirement. This amounts to approximately 3% of dental hygienists in Saskatchewan and therefore the administrative impact of implementation of these requirements is expected to be moderate but manageable.

Q. HOW DOES THIS ALIGN WITH OTHER PROVINCES?

A. Requirements for *Independent Dental Hygienists* vary across Canada, but most provinces allow independence with additional safeguards in place.

Q. HOW WILL FEEDBACK BE USED?

A. Feedback will inform decision-makers on whether the requirements address public safety, are clear and achievable, and help identify operational challenges, unintended impacts, or needed refinements to the proposed amendment.

Q. HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE?

A. We invite you to review the consultation materials and submit feedback by February 24th, 2026, using the icon on our website.