

# **OREGON DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION**

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

### **ORAL HEALTH SCREENING**

The 2014 Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act amended House Bill 3157 which describes requirements for dental hygienists and dental assistants to independently perform oral health screenings in Oregon.

Sharing the same principal, the Oregon Dental Assistants Association objective for its members and all dental assistants is to support and encourage continued education, and to maintain the highest standards of performance. The Oregon Dental Assistants Association believes that the needs of the public are best met by dental assistants who have demonstrated knowledge and competency through education and/or training.

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association further believes all patients must receive this commitment of the highest standard of performance and reaffirms it's position that all functions or tasks delegated to dental assistants comply as defined by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

The following is screening form language suggested by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

### **Oral Health Screening Policy**

2003 House Bill 3157, which was passed by the Legislature and signed into law by the governor, allowed the Oregon board of Dentistry (OBD) to develop written training and screening protocols so dental hygienists and dental assistants could independently perform Oral Health Screenings in Oregon.

The OBD on January 23, 2004 determined that no additional training was necessary for Oregon Dental Hygienists or Oregon Dental Assistants.

The OBD adopted specific language that must be on any Oral Health Screening Form that would be given to individuals to parents or guardians or minors who would be screened.

The following is the language and would need to be on any Oral Health Screening Form that would be used by any Oregon Dental Hygienist or Dental Assistant in compliance with Oregon law.

This language was revised on March 1, 2006.

This is an oral health screening for\_\_\_\_\_.

A screening in just a quick look and does not take the place of a thorough examination by a dentist. Serious oral health problems may be missed in a screening. The person doing the screening may or may not have any dental training. [Dental Hygienists or Dental Assistants may omit the previous sentence.]

- § No visible signs or oral problems. See your dentist at least yearly.
- § Visible signs of oral problems were found. A visit to a dentist is recommended to prevent serious or more costly problems.
- § Visible signs or symptoms of serious dental needs were found. An immediate visit to a dentist is recommended.

**The Board encourages others who may do Oral Health Screenings to use this language on their screening forms.**

The Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act, Division 42 OAR 818-042-0020  
(4) Dental assistants who are in compliance with written training and screening protocols adopted by the Board may perform oral health screenings under general supervision.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry House Bill 3157 passed by the legislature in 2003 and Division 42 OAR 818-042-0020 (4) are the basis for this position statement.

**Continue to next page for the screening form;**

Implemented historically OBD 2003 Amended March 2006.

Presented: March 2014

Adopted: March 15, 2014

## ORAL HEALTH SCREENING

This is an oral health screening for:

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A screening is just a quick look and does not take the place of a thorough examination by a dentist. Serious oral health problems may be missed in a screening. The individual performing this evaluation has had dental training

- 1\_\_\_\_\_ No visible signs of oral problems. See your dentist at least yearly.
- 2\_\_\_\_\_ Visible signs of oral problems were found. A visit to a dentist is recommended to prevent serious or more costly problems.
- 3\_\_\_\_\_ Visible signs or symptoms of serious dental needs were found. An immediate visit to a dentist is recommended.

Remember that good oral hygiene includes having a yearly dental examination and cleaning as well as brushing twice a day and flossing. A healthy mouth looks good and feels great. Keep smiling!

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Screener: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**This screening form is consistent with the approved format suggested by the Oregon Board of Dentistry  
March 2006.**