



## Continuing Competency Requirements for Dental Hygienists in the NWT

The dental hygienist continuing competency requirements support registered dental hygienists to maintain their competencies and skills as professional service providers throughout the life of their registration. The continuing competency requirements promote high standards of care, ethics and professionalism and are mandatory for registered dental hygienists as established by the Dental Hygiene Profession Regulations and enforced by the Registrar, Chief of Profession Regulation.

### Requirements:

- A registered dental hygienist shall complete 12 hours of continuing competency activities each year beginning April 1 and ending on March 31 of the following year.
- A registered dental hygienist shall keep record of all continuing competency activities completed. The activity record must be retained for a minimum of five years.

### Eligible continuing competency activities:

a. Participation in courses, conferences, workshops or seminars, either as a presenter or facilitator, including time spent preparing to present or facilitate, or as an attendee.
b. Participation in meetings of a professional association of dental hygienists or a body in a province having authority to regulate the profession of dental hygiene, including annual general meetings, either as a presenter or facilitator, including time spent preparing to present or facilitate, or as an attendee.
c. Practice or consultation with professional peers to acquire knowledge and skills in areas of the practice of dental hygiene that are unfamiliar to the member
d. Self-directed learning or study, including reading professional journals or other reference sources and publishing research
e. Any of the activities listed in paragraphs (a) to (d) with a particular focus on Indigenous issues in dental hygiene
f. Participation in Indigenous cultural awareness training
g. Membership on a Registration Committee or on another committee or board related to the practice of dental hygiene

**Note:** It is recommended that a maximum of 6 hours each year be credited from activities described in paragraphs f and g.



**The continuing competency record must include:**

The date or dates when the activity was carried out
The duration, in hours, of the activity
A brief description of the activity
Any certificates obtained on the completion of the activity
If applicable, the name and credentials of the presenters or facilitators of the activity and the professional peers with whom the registered dental hygienist practised or consulted

*See a sample record sheet attached.*

**Reporting:**

The Professional Licensing Office will collect an annual continuing competency record upon renewal. Both the renewal form and the continuing competency record must be submitted to renew a dental hygienist license. The continuing competency record must be retained for a minimum of 5 years and made available to the Professional Licensing Office upon request.

**Waiver requests:**

If at the time of an application for renewal a dental hygienist has been registered for less than one year, the Registrar may waive all or part of the continuing competency requirements. The request to waive the continuing competency requirements must be submitted to the Registrar for consideration.

**More information:**

The complete Dental Hygiene Profession Regulations and full continuing competency requirements under the *Health and Social Services Professions Act* can be viewed here: [Dental Hygiene Profession Regulations \(gov.nt.ca\)](http://gov.nt.ca)

If you have specific questions, reach out to the Professional Licensing Office by email, [professional\\_licensing@gov.nt.ca](mailto:professional_licensing@gov.nt.ca) or phone, 867-767-9067, ext. 49053.

