

VA National Standards of Practice

VA STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Comment Count Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is developing a national standard of practice for VA Dental Hygienists which would standardize the scope of practice for these health care professionals in all VA medical facilities provided they have the proper education, training, and skills to perform the tasks and duties detailed in the national standard of practice.

On November 7, 2024, VA posted the proposed VA standard of practice for Dental Hygienists in the Federal Register (<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2024-25894>) for public comment and within VA's intranet for VA employee comment. VA also sent letters, including the proposed VA standard of practice, to state licensing boards for Dental Hygienists to provide an opportunity for them to comment directly to VA on the proposed standard. VA requested all comments submitted through Federal Register, VA's intranet site, and from the state licensing boards be provided within 60 days. The comment period closed on January 6, 2025, and VA received 171 comments in total.



VA received 164 comments from VA employees and 2 comments from professional organizations via the Federal Register. As of January 10, 2025, VA received comments from 5 out of the 54 state licensing boards for Dental Hygienists; however, VA will continue to actively engage with states.

VA will review all comments received and make appropriate revisions to the VA standard of practice for Dental Hygienists in light of the comments, including those that present evidence-based practice and alternatives that help VA meet our mission and goals.

VA will post a collective response to all comments in a final report on <https://www.va.gov/standardsofpractice> once the VA standard of practice for Dental Hygienists is published in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1900, which will be available at <https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?pub=1>.