

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

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| Action: | Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed |
| Vote: | 5 - 0 - 0 |
| Yeas: | George G., Kruse, Monnes Anderson, Verger, Morrisette |
| Nays: | 0 |
| Exc.: | 0 |
| Prepared By: | Ilana Weinbaum, Administrator |
| Meeting Dates: | 5/2 |

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Modifies current definition of dental hygiene to include the diagnosis and treatment planning for dental services and the application of dental sealants and fluoride. Reduces the educational requirement needed to be licensed as a limited access permit dental hygienist from 5,000 to 2,500 hours of supervised clinical practice within previous five years. Allows limited access permit dental hygienists to assess need for and apply sealants. Allows hygienists to apply sealants and fluoride to specific persons or patients at specific locations without the supervision of a dentist. Allows counselors and assistants, who have received proper training, to apply fluoride varnish to the teeth of children enrolled in or receiving dental services from the Women, Infants and Children Program, the Oregon pre-kindergarten program, or a federal Head Start grant program. Declares an emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Measure expands needed services to most vulnerable populations
- Appropriate training requirements for limited access dental hygienist
- Training for counselors and assistants who apply fluoride varnish
- How programs would obtain fluoride varnish

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Allows counselors and assistants, who have received proper training, to apply fluoride varnish to the teeth of children enrolled in or receiving dental services from the Women, Infants and Children Program, the Oregon pre-kindergarten program, or a federal Head Start grant program.

BACKGROUND: In Oregon, most dental hygienists work under the general supervision of a licensed dentist. General supervision means that the dentist has authorized the procedures to be performed for a patient, but does not require that a dentist be present when the procedures are performed. Also, the authorized procedures may be performed at a place other than the usual place of practice of the dentist. The statute regulating Dental Hygiene are ORS 680.010 - 680.205 and the administrative rules are found in OAR 818, Division 35. Limited access permit dental hygienists are authorized to render all services, within the scope of practice of dental hygiene, to certain underserved populations without the supervision of a dentist (ORS 680.205).

Fluoride varnish is a thin coating of resin that is applied to the tooth surface to protect it from decay. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), fluoride varnish falls under the category of "drugs and devices" that presents minimal risk and is subject to the lowest level of regulation. The purpose of applying fluoride varnish is to retard, arrest, and reverse the process of cavity formation.

5/15/2007 2:33:00 PM

This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.