

Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association  
SB 301 Correction of Expanded Practice  
Collaborative Agreement Provisions  
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My name is Alec Shebiel and I represent the Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA). SB 301 deletes confusing language in ORS 680.205(3)(d) regarding the required elements of a Collaborative Agreement that an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist must have with a dentist in order to perform certain expanded practice functions and provides more flexibility for those with collaborative agreements. SB 301 comes out of the Senate Health Care Committee and was passed by the Senate 30-0.

In 2011, the Oregon Legislature passed SB 738, which created the Expanded Practice Dental Hygiene permit in place of the former limited access permit. If an Expanded Practice Dental Hygienist (EPDH) wishes to perform several additional procedures, the EPDH must enter into a Collaborative Agreement with a dentist. But at the end of the list of additional procedures, the current statute includes "dental risk assessment." This is confusing because all dental hygienists, whether or not they have an EPDH permit, are already required by Board of Dentistry rules to do risk assessments. The language requiring the issue to be addressed in a Collaborative Agreement has resulted in confusion in the field about whether dental risk assessments are only needed by those who have an EPDH permit, and not required of all hygienists. SB 301 removes this confusing language from the collaborative agreement requirement and instead, clarifies the definition of dental hygiene to include "prediagnostic risk assessment" so that it clearly applies to all dental hygienists.

Current law requires those EPDH's with collaborative agreements to have at least one referral per year. SB 301 builds in more flexibility to allow the dentist and the EPDH to agree to the number of referrals per year in the collaborative agreement. This allows a dentist and EPDH to agree to the necessary required referrals depending on the experience level of the EPDH, each dentist's practice requirements, and the needs of the patients.

Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association has worked with the Board of Dentistry and the Oregon Dental Association on this bill, and both support this clarification to the statute.

We urge you to support SB 301.

**Oregon Dental Hygienists' Association**

Contact: Alec J. Shebiel

Cell: 503.750.1019

ashebiel@lindsayhart.com