

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Health Care

Fiscal: No Fiscal Impact

Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 04/13/15

Action: Do Pass With Amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Meeting Dates: 02/02, 04/13

Vote:

Yeas: 4 - Knopp, Monnes Anderson, Shields, Steiner Hayward

Exc: 1 - Kruse

Prepared By: Zena Rockowitz, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Defines “dental hygiene” as including prediagnostic risk assessment. Specifies that unless different criteria are included in collaborative agreement between expanded practice dental hygienist and dentist, at least once each year, an expanded practice dental hygienist must refer patient or resident to dentist available to treat the patient.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Access challenges to dental care
- Language is confusing because all dental hygienists, with or without extended practice permits, are allowed to make assessments and referrals
- Clarification on risk and referral parameters criteria
- Covering the right services, at the right time, by the right provider

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

Adds that dental hygiene includes prediagnostic risk assessment. Specifies that unless different criteria are included in a collaborative agreement between expanded practice dental hygienist and dentists, at least once each year, an expanded practice dental hygienist must refer each patient or resident to dentist available to treat patient. Restores language stating that dental risk assessment and referral parameters are part of agreements between dentists and expanded practice dental hygienists.

BACKGROUND:

The Expanded Practice Dental Hygiene permit (ORS 680.205), which is issued by the Oregon Board of Dentistry, is available to dental hygienists with an unrestricted Oregon license. A hygienist with this permit may provide all services within the scope of dental hygiene, without the supervision of a dentist. The hygienist and dentist must enter into a collaborative agreement in order to render certain services, such as administration of local anesthesia, prescribing certain drugs and conducting dental risk assessments and referral parameters. The bill intends to clarify that all dental hygienists are permitted to conduct prediagnostic risk assessment. It also specifies parameters for referrals to dentists in a collaborative agreement.