



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 20
[2017 Assembly Bill 146]

**Practice of
Dental Hygienists**

2017 Wisconsin Act 20 modifies requirements related to the practice of dental hygiene in certain settings. The Act provides that, in addition to a dental office setting, a dental hygienist may practice dental hygiene in any of the following settings, in accordance with conditions specified in the statutes:

- Federal, state, county, or municipal correctional or detention facilities and facilities established to provide care for terminally ill patients.
- Charitable institutions open to the general public or members of a religious sect or order.
- Nonprofit home health care agencies.
- Nonprofit dental care programs serving primarily indigent, economically disadvantaged, or migrant worker populations.
- Nursing homes, community-based residential facilities, and hospitals.
- Facilities that are primarily operated for the purpose of providing outpatient medical services.
- Adult family homes.
- Adult day care centers.
- Community rehabilitation programs. Community rehabilitation program is defined to mean a nonprofit entity or governmental agency providing vocational rehabilitation services to disabled individuals to maximize the employment opportunities of such individuals.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.

The Act specifies that, in settings other than a dental office, the authorization and presence of a licensed dentist is not required for the practice of dental hygiene. Under prior law, the authorization and presence of a licensed dentist was required in most cases.

Effective date: June 23, 2017

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