

Take Action Now!

Help Clarify that Scaling Assistants are not Legal in Oregon

What's Happening

- The Oregon Board of Dentistry is considering a proposed rule change that if passed by the Board will **clarify** that dental assistants are currently prohibited by law from performing periodontal probing and scaling teeth to remove deposits and stains.
- This proposed rule change is consistent with current Oregon law that states "It is unlawful for any person not otherwise authorized by law to practice dental hygiene or purport to be a dental hygienist" without a valid dental hygiene license.

Why This Matters

- In Oregon it is against the law to practice dental hygiene or to present yourself as a dental hygienist without a valid dental hygiene license.
- Periodontal probing and scaling are essential components of dental hygiene practice.
- Some dentists and dental team members do not know that it is currently illegal for a dental assistant to perform periodontal probing and scaling.

What You Can Do

- Submit your comments to the Oregon Board of Dentistry as an email message or as a letter attached to an email.
- Email your message or letter to information@obd.oregon.gov during the public comment period from **September 2 through 4:00 PM on October 10, 2025**.

Format for Message or Letter

- I am a (licensed dental hygienist or dental hygiene student) and I work in (clinical practice or expanded practice or education or public health etc.).
- I am writing in **support** of the proposed rule change to **818-042-0040 Prohibited Acts** that if passed by the Board will clarify that Oregon law currently prohibits dental assistants from practicing dental hygiene including periodontal probing and scaling.
- (Explain in your own words why you support this proposed rule change).
- Thank you for considering my support for this proposed rule change.

Information or Questions

Contact ODHA Advocacy Director lisajrowley.rdh@outlook.com or text 503-568-5825.

Please share this information with your professional colleagues!