

What constitutes dental hygiene practice in Nova Scotia?

For those wishing to obtain a practising licence, and who graduated more than 3 years prior to application, **you must have practiced a minimum of 600 hours in dental hygiene within the last 3 years**, e.g., if you're applying on January 1, 2022, you must have 600 hours between Jan 1, 2019 to Jan 1, 2022. (These practice hours may have been accumulated here in NS or in another jurisdiction where you were licenced to practice dental hygiene).

Section 22 of the *Dental Hygienists Act* provides details regarding dental hygiene scope of practice. In conjunction with the Regulations (including Sections 25 and 26: Scope of Practice), the practice of dental hygiene is defined.

Only CDHNS registrants who hold a practising licence may engage in the practice of dental hygiene in Nova Scotia, whether as a volunteer or for remuneration. **The practice of dental hygiene includes registrants who act as clinicians, educators, researchers, administrators, managers, health promoters, and/or consultants.**

When asked to calculate your practice hours, do not just calculate the hours you spent providing clinical care, include hours where you provided dental hygiene care in any of the areas noted above e.g., an educator, researcher, administrator, health promoter, or consultant. This may include positions like dental supply company sales rep, infection prevention and control consultant, and dental hygiene department manager. **All positions count towards accumulation of practice hours and all positions require a CDHNS practising licence.**

If this 600-hour requirement applies to you, when submitting your application, you must provide evidence that you have obtained 600 hours. This must be in the form of a letter from the employer (on letterhead), or CRA submission, e.g., ROE (Record of Employment).