



**320-A AFFILIATED PRACTICE DENTAL HYGIENIST**

REVISION DATE: 10/01/09

INITIAL

EFFECTIVE DATE: 04/01/2007

**DESCRIPTION**

AHCCCS covers oral health care services as described in Chapter 400, Policy 430, EPSDT services. As allowed by State law, A.R.S. §32-1281 and §32-1289, and described in this policy, dental hygienists with an affiliated practice agreement, may provide dental hygiene services to AHCCCS members 18 years of age and younger.

**AMOUNT, DURATION AND SCOPE**

AHCCCS covers dental hygiene services provided by Arizona licensed dental hygienists subject to the terms of the written affiliated practice agreement entered into between a dentist and a dental hygienist.

Each affiliated dental hygienist, when practicing under an affiliated practice relationship may perform only those duties specified within the terms of the affiliated practice relationship and they must maintain an appropriate level of contact, communication and consultation with the affiliated practice dentist.

In addition to the requirements specified in A.R.S. §32-1281 and §32-1289, AHCCCS requires the following:

1. Both the dental hygienist and the dentist in the affiliated practice relationship must be registered AHCCCS providers.
2. The affiliated practice dental hygienist must maintain individual medical records of AHCCCS members in accordance with the Arizona State Dental Practice Act. At a minimum this must include member identification, parent/guardian identification, signed authorization (parental consent) for services, member medical history and documentation of services rendered.
3. The affiliated practice dental hygienist must register with AHCCCS and bill for services under his or her individual AHCCCS provider identification number / NPI number.



4. The affiliated practice dental hygienist will only be reimbursed for providing services in accordance with State regulations, AHCCCS policy and provider agreement, and their affiliated practice agreement.
  
5. AHCCCS reimbursement for dental radiographs is restricted to providers who are qualified to perform both the exposure and the interpretation of dental radiographs.