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**From:** Leeann Easley [leasley@zoominternet.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 24, 2008 10:24 AM  
**To:** IRRC  
**Subject:** Dental Hygiene rules/regs

I have been a licensed Dental Hygienist in the state of Pennsylvania for more than 30 years. During that time I have seen the regulations governing our practice change many times. It is time that we come into the 21st century. All over the US, hygienists have been practicing "outside the office" in community areas with great results. I have seen too many times nursing home patients finally make it into the office, only to see total destruction of their mouths. If a hygienist had seen them years before, then this would probably not have happened. Caught early, decay and periodontal disease can be controlled. And, as we all now know, the health of the mouth directly relates to the health of the body. We are not asking to do anything "new" with the Public Health Dental Hygiene Practitioner, just allow us to do what we have been doing for years. It would benefit many in the community.

Thank you,

Leeann Easley RDH BS

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