

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT  
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND  
CLASS SPECIFICATION**

**Code No. 120003  
Grade D2**

**PUBLIC HEALTH DENTIST**

**DEFINITION OF CLASS:**

This is professional dental work providing public health dental care and treatment services to eligible County residents, and overseeing the clinical component of a community oral health program. The work of this class involves prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ore-facial disease, injuries and deformities of the teeth, the jaws, organs of the mouth, and other structures and connective tissue associated with the oral cavity. Contacts are with other dentists, physicians, Health Department personnel, professional groups and interested organizations in order to discuss dental initiatives, to provide subject matter advice concerning regulations and procedures, and to discuss and agree upon medical/dental attention needed by patients for whom they make referrals. As patients' needs are not readily ascertained, public services and assistance is provided in the form of the complete dental examinations provided, and through the provision of direct dental care and consultation services.

The employee must have a wide range of knowledge of concepts, principles, and practices of the field of dentistry to perform a variety of dental treatment services required by the general public. Due to the high expenses involved, casework requiring crowns, root canals for posterior teeth, bridge work, implants, and extraction of impacted wisdom teeth is referred to outside resources. Working under the administrative direction of the Program Administrator of Dental Services and the professional guidance/clinical oversight of the County Health Officer, or his/her designee, a dentist has full and final technical responsibility for dental care provided. Employees are relied upon for their professional input in direction of the County public health dental program, and in developing and revising dental program operational policies and procedures. The work consists of varied duties involving a wide range of process and methods relating to the established practices of public health dentistry. An employee in this class is responsible for providing clinical supervision to Dental Assistants and other Dental Providers and offers clinical input on performing evaluations for employees and contractors in such positions. Performance of the work of this class regularly involves some unpleasantness resulting from exposure to blood and saliva in the oral cavity. Although employees wear protective clothing, rubber gloves, and protective eye-wear, there is a considerable risk due to exposure to such blood-borne pathogens as HIV, Hepatitis B, and tuberculosis, and the regular utilization of sharp instruments, x-ray equipment, and high-speed drills. Work regularly involves long periods of standing and the occasional lifting of objects weighing up to fifty pounds.

**EXAMPLES OF DUTIES: (Illustrative Only)**

- Performs oral and radiological examinations of the oral cavity and diagnoses and treats pathological or irregular conditions.
- Provides operative dentistry services which entail treatment of carious teeth, preparations and placement of filling materials, single and multiple extractions of deciduous and permanent teeth, and administration of local anesthesia.

- Performs periodontics and oral prophylaxis involving scaling of calculus, curettage, and polishing.
- Treats disease and infections of the oral cavity, and prescribes and dispenses medication for relief of pain and infection.
- Recognizes and preliminarily evaluates needs of patients requiring specialized dental or medical treatment and arranges for same.
- Instructs children and the adults in proper dental care and oral hygiene.
- Provides clinical supervision to assigned Dental Assistant and other Dental Providers.
- Maintains, and supervises the maintenance of records of services rendered, and supervises the submission of same to superiors.
- Supervises maintenance of dental operatories office and the ordering of clinical supplies.
- Participates in the planning and coordination of the County public health dental program by providing technical expertise/input in the development of program services, practices, and operational procedures manuals.
- Participates in special dental programs and studies in school and communities in cooperation with interested groups and local practicing dentist.
- Presents and participates in in-service training seminars.
- Mentors and supervises students and interns.
- Performs related duties as required.

#### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES:**

- Thorough understanding of, and skills and ability in the application of the principles, practices, methods, materials and specialized equipment used in professional dentistry and oral surgery.
- Thorough knowledge of selected pharmaceuticals used in dentistry, their desired effects, side effects, and complications which may arise from their use.
- In-depth understanding of epidemiology and infections/exposure control principles.
- Thorough knowledge of current developments in the public health field.
- Knowledge of the principles and practices of dental care administration and how to implement and evaluate community dental care programs
- Thorough knowledge of and ability to enforce applicable laws, regulations, practices, and procedures governing health care and related services.
- Familiarity with and skill in using computer applications to maintain electronic dental records.
- Skill in effectively interviewing, to examine, and to assess patient condition, and in communicating clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing.
- Skill in performing emergency medical procedures
- Strong leadership and management skills
- Ability to plan, assign, review and clinically supervise the work of other Dental Providers and Dental Assistant.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with interested public and professional groups, and to promote dental health programs.
- Ability to attend meetings and perform assignments at locations outside the office.

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Experience:** Three (3) years' experience in the practice of dentistry

**Education:** Graduation from a college or university accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association with a degree of doctor of dental surgery, doctor of dental medicine.

**Equivalency:** Possession of a valid license to practice dentistry issued by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners, plus three years' experience in the practice of dentistry.

**Certification:** *Possession at time of appointment and throughout appointment:*

- An approved CPR certification;
- A Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certification; and
- A State of Maryland/Federal Government certification to prescribe narcotic medication.

**License:** *Possession at time of appointment and throughout appointment:*

- A valid license to practice dentistry issued by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners is required at the time of appointment; and
- A valid driver's license equivalent to a non-commercial, class C Maryland driver's license

**PROBATIONARY PERIOD:**

Individuals appointed to this class will be required to serve a probationary period of six months, during which time performance will be carefully evaluated. Continuations in this class will be contingent upon successful completion of the probationary period.

**MEDICAL PROTOCOL:** Limited Core Exam.

June 1976  
February 1986  
**Classification Study:** February 1994 (M)  
October 2017  
**Revised (MQ):** January 2018