

INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT REGARDING THE APPLICATION OF CURODONT AS A DUTY THAT MAY BE DELEGATED TO A DENTAL HYGIENIST

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To protect the public interest, the North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners (“Board”) provides interpretation and guidance regarding the application of Curodont Repair Fluoride Plus (“Curodont”) as a duty that may be delegated by a dentist to a dental hygienist, consistent with the Dental Hygiene Act and the Board’s rules.

The Board received an inquiry about whether the application of Curodont is a duty that may be delegated by a dentist to a dental hygienist. The hygienist would apply the Curodont to an early carious lesion after prophylaxis and after the dentist has examined the patient and prescribed the application.

Delegable Functions

Pursuant to the Dental Hygiene Act, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-221(a), the practice of dental hygiene includes the performance of: “Complete oral prophylaxis, application of preventive agents to oral structures, exposure and processing of radiographs, administration of medicaments prescribed by a licensed dentist, preparation of diagnostic aids, and written records of oral conditions for interpretation by the dentist, together with such other and further functions as may be permitted by rules and regulations of the Board not inconsistent herewith.”

The Board’s Rule 21 NCAC 16G .0101 sets out functions that may be delegated to a dental hygienist in addition to those set out in the Dental Hygiene Act above. A dental hygienist may also perform the functions delegable to a Dental Assistant II pursuant to 21 NCAC 16H .0203.

Relevant to this inquiry, under the Dental Hygiene Act and the Board’s Rules 16G .0101 and 16H .0203, the following pertinent functions may be performed by a dental hygienist under the control and supervision of a dentist who has first examined the patient and prescribed the procedure:

- applying preventive agents to oral structures;
- administering medicaments prescribed by the dentist;
- applying acid etch materials and rinses;
- applying resorbable sulcular antimicrobial or antibiotic agents;
- applying resin infiltration treatment for incipient smooth surface lesions, following the dentist's diagnosis that the lesion is non-penetrable; and
- applying silver diamine fluoride.

Use and Application of Curodont

Curodont is an FDA-approved non-invasive dental treatment. According to the manufacturer’s drug label, Curodont is a topical intraoral gel that may be used to prevent or to treat early carious lesions on tooth surfaces. The active ingredient is sodium fluoride.

Curodont is applied after prophylaxis. The application process involves cleaning and etching the tooth surface, then applying Curodont to the tooth and waiting for five minutes. The material is not rinsed off. It diffuses rapidly to aid in regeneration of the enamel. Curodont may be used to treat non-cavitated lesions, white spot lesions, and demineralization.

Application of Curodont as a Delegable Duty

The application process for Curodont appears to be similar to combining a sealant with a fluoride application. Its ability to arrest and remineralize non-cavitated lesions is similar to silver diamine fluoride, the application of which is included in the Rule 16G .0101 list of delegable duties.

It is the Board's position that the application of Curodont involves functions that fall within those set out above that may be delegated to a dental hygienist under the Dental Hygiene Act and the Board's rules. Therefore, the application of Curodont may be delegated to a dental hygienist under current law and rules, provided the delegation is done in compliance with the requirements set out above. The Curodont must be applied after prophylaxis and after a dentist has examined the patient and prescribed the application, and it must be performed under the control and supervision of the dentist.

The Board's position is based on the information available as of the date of this Interpretive Statement. As such, the Board's position is subject to change in the future based on new information. Dentists incorporating Curodont into their practices should be familiar with the manufacturer's drug label, and should remain current with respect to scientific research regarding the use and efficacy of Curodont to ensure their use of the treatment is consistent with the applicable standard of care, the Board's rules, and North Carolina law.