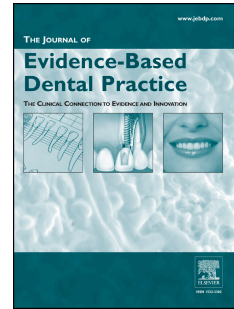


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Advocacy for the Provision of Dental Hygiene Services within the Hospital Setting:  
Development of a Dental Hygiene Student Rotation

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Advocacy for the Provision of Dental Hygiene Services within the Hospital

Setting: Development of a Dental Hygiene Student Rotation

Jacqueline A. Juhl, RDH, BS, MS, and Lynn Stedman, RDH, BS, MEd, MA

**ABSTRACT**

**Declarative Title:** Educational preparation of dental hygiene students for hospital-based practice, along with advocacy efforts promote inclusion of dental hygienists within hospital-based interdisciplinary healthcare teams.

**Background and Purpose:** While the value of attending to the oral care needs of patients in critical care units has been recognized, the potential impact of optimal oral healthcare for the general hospital population is now gaining attention.

This article describes a hospital-based educational experience for dental hygiene students, and provides advocacy strategies for inclusion of dental hygienists within the hospital interdisciplinary team,

**Methods:**

The dental hygienist authors, both educators committed to evidence-based oral healthcare and the profession of dental hygiene, studied hospital healthcare and recognized a critical void in oral healthcare provision within that setting.

They collaboratively developed and implemented a hospital-based rotation within the curriculum of a dental hygiene educational program utilizing advocacy skills to encourage hospital administrators to include a dental hygiene presence within hospital-based care teams.

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