

Course Description

DES 1600 | Dental Office Emergencies | 2 credits

This course is designed to instruct students in the fundamental patient assessment skills needed to identify and manage medical emergencies that may arise in the dental office.

Course Competencies

Competency 1:

The student will demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of the basic legal and risk management responsibilities of the dental hygienist by:

- a) Explaining the following medico-legal terms:
 - Standard of care
 - Duty to act
 - Consent
 - Abandonment
 - Negligence
- b) Explaining the term *risk category* as it relates to the ASA (American Society of Anesthesiologists) Physical Status Classification System used to assist in the provision of safe patient treatment.
- c) Describing when to take and record blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and respiration.

Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Numbers / Data
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cultural / Global Perspective
- Computer / Technology Usage
- Aesthetic / Creative Activities
- Environmental Responsibility

Competency 2:

The student will illustrate the importance of obtaining a complete, accurate medical history and vital signs in the prevention, identification, and management of a medical emergency by:

- a) Explaining the significance of questions on the Medical History form.

- b) Discussing precautions necessary in treating dental patients with medical complications.
- c) Defining chief complaint.
- d) Determining the need for medical clearance after reviewing a medical history.
- e) Identifying circumstances in which antibiotic prophylaxis is indicated prior to providing oral treatment

Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Numbers / Data
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cultural / Global Perspective
- Computer / Technology Usage
- Aesthetic / Creative Activities
- Environmental Responsibility

Competency 3:

The student will demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of managing dental emergencies by:

- a) Describing “first aid” for the following common dental emergencies:
 - Toothache
 - Broken tooth
 - Knocked out permanent tooth (avulsed tooth)
 - Cut or bitten lip, tongue or cheek
 - Broken braces or wires
 - Possible broken jaw
 - Bleeding after baby tooth falls out
 - Bleeding after scaling
 - Cold/canker sores
- b) Describing how to manage a broken instrument in the patient’s mouth.
- c) Describing how to manage aspiration of debris during patient treatment.

Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Numbers / Data
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cultural / Global Perspective
- Computer / Technology Usage
- Aesthetic / Creative Activities

- Environmental Responsibility

Competency 4:

The student will demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of cardiovascular conditions and their potential risk factors or emergencies by:

- a) Listing the important factors in managing a dental patient with cardiovascular disease.
- b) Describing the etiology and physiology of angina pectoris.
- c) Identifying the clinical signs, symptoms and treatment of angina pectoris.
- d) Describing precautions that should be taken to prevent an angina episode from occurring during dental treatment.

Learning Outcomes

- Communication
- Numbers / Data
- Critical Thinking
- Information Literacy
- Cultural / Global Perspective
- Computer / Technology Usage
- Aesthetic / Creative Activities
- Environmental Responsibility