

State Specific Information on Silver Diamine Fluoride

Silver diamine fluoride (SDF) 38% has been used extensively outside the United States for many years for caries control. SDF is a colorless liquid, or tinted blue, containing silver particles and fluoride ion that at pH 10 or 13 is 25% silver, 8% ammonia, 5% fluoride (44,800 ppm), and 62% water. This is referred to as 38% SDF.

The [Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors \(ASTDD\)](#) goes on to say, “According to the rules and as governed by their state medical and/or dental practice acts, dentists, dental hygienists, physicians, nurses, and their assistants may be permitted to apply fluorides and SDF. Dental hygienists in most states whose Medicaid programs cover SDF application may be permitted to apply SDF under the same authorization or restrictions as other topical fluorides.”¹

Below are the relevant state scope of practice provisions or minutes from state dental board meetings:

Alabama

Scope of Practice: [Rule 270-X-3.10\(2\)\(b\)\(6\)](#)

Supervision: Direct

Dental hygienists may apply topical fluoride under direct supervision.

Alaska

Scope of Practice: [Sec 08.32.110\(a\)\(1\)\(F\)](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Dec. 8, 2017, page 7](#)

Supervision: General

A person licensed to practice the profession of dental hygiene in the state may, under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, perform other dental operations and services delegated by a licensed dentist if the dental operations and services are not prohibited by (c) of this section. Subsection (c) does not prohibit SDF.

Arizona

Scope of Practice: [R4-11-601](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [June 7, 2019](#)

Supervision: General

A dental hygienist may apply preventative and therapeutic agents under the general supervision of a licensed dentist.

A dental hygienist may perform a procedure not specifically authorized by A.R.S. § 32-1281 when all of the following conditions are satisfied: 1. The procedure is recommended or prescribed by the supervising dentist; 2. The hygienist has received instruction, training, or education to perform the procedure in a safe manner; and 3. The procedure is performed under the general supervision of a licensed dentist.

Arkansas

Scope of Practice: [Article XI\(A\)\(2\)\(e\)](#)

Supervision: General

A dental hygienist may be delegated to place Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) under general supervision. If SDF is used, the dental hygienist and their supervising dentist must submit to the Board proof of successful completion of an approved educational course on SDF prior to its usage for and patient treatment.



This document is intended for informational purposes only and does not constitute a legal opinion regarding dental practice in any state. To verify any information, please contact your state's dental board.

Resource developed in partnership with:



California

Scope of Practice: [16 CCR §1088\(c\)\(7\)\(A\)\(8\)](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [April 20, 2018, page 8](#)

Supervision: General

During a Dental Hygiene Board of California Legislative & Regulatory Subcommittee meeting, the minutes state “A RDH, RDHAP, RDHEF can use SDF as part of their treatments according to the current law.”

Colorado

Scope of Practice: [3 CCR 709-1.26](#)

Supervision: Direct, Indirect, or Telehealth

Pursuant to sections 12-35-125(1)(j) and 12-35-128.8, C.R.S., upon completion of a post-secondary course or continuing education as stated in B (2) and (3), a dental hygienist may place/apply silver diamine fluoride in a dental office setting under the “direct supervision” (defined by section 12-35-103(6), C.R.S.) or “indirect supervision” (defined by section 12-35-103(10), C.R.S.) of a dentist, or through “telehealth supervision” (defined by section 12-35-103(17), C.R.S.) for purposes of communication with the supervising dentist. A dentist who supervises a dental hygienist that applies silver diamine fluoride under telehealth supervision must have a physical practice location in Colorado for purposes of patient referral for follow-up care.

Connecticut

Scope of Practice: [Sec. 20-126/](#)

Supervision: General

The “practice of dental hygiene” includes the application of topical solutions to exposed portions of the teeth.

Delaware

Scope of Practice: [Title 24 § 1101\(13\)](#)

Supervision: General

The "practice of dental hygiene" includes the application of chemicals to the teeth and periodontal tissues, designed and approved for the prevention of dental caries and/or periodontal disease.

Florida

Scope of Practice: [64B5-16.006](#)

Supervision: General and without supervision

The following remediable tasks may be performed by a dental hygienist who has received training in these procedures in pre-licensure education or who has received formal training as defined by Rule 64B5-16.002, F.A.C., and who performs the tasks under general supervision:

- (c) Applying of topical fluorides that are approved by the American Dental Association or the Food and Drug Administration, including the use of fluoride varnishes and silver diamine fluoride;

By virtue of their training and licensure, dental hygienists are authorized to perform the following remediable tasks without additional training as defined in chapter 64B5-16, F.A.C., without supervision:

- (b) Apply fluoride varnishes, and silver diamine fluoride, instruct patients in oral hygiene care and supervising patient oral hygiene care and other services which do not involve diagnosis or treatment of dental conditions.

Georgia

Scope of Practice: [OCGA § 43-11-74](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [May 4, 2018, page 7](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes topical fluoride and fluoride treatments under general supervision. Board meeting minutes also state “a dental hygienist may use silver diamine fluoride for preventative purposes only, but not for treatment.”

Hawaii

Scope of Practice: [Title 25 §447-3](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Jan. 23, 2017, page 6](#)

Supervision: General

Dental hygienists may apply preventive chemical agents to the coronal surfaces of the teeth, which chemical agents have been approved by the board of dentistry. Board meeting minutes affirm “that SDF is a preventive chemical agent that can be applied by a dental hygienist.”

Idaho

Scope of Practice: [§54-902](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes applying preventive agents and such other dental services as specified by the dentist unless prohibited by the board in its adopted rules.

Illinois

Scope of Practice: [225 ILCS 25/18](#)

Department of Public Health Guidance: [Sept. 15, 2017](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes the application to the surfaces of the teeth or gums of chemical compounds designed to be desensitizing agents or effective agents in the prevention of dental caries or periodontal disease. Additionally, IDPH guidance specifically says SDF may be applied by dental hygienists.

Indiana

Scope of Practice: [§25-13-1-11](#)

Supervision: Direct or through access practice agreement

Scope of Practice allows dental hygienist to apply and use within the patient's mouth such antiseptic sprays, washes, or medicaments for the control or prevention of dental caries as his or her employer dentist may direct

Iowa

Scope of Practice: [IAC 650-10.5\(3\)\(b\)](#)

Iowa Department of Public Health: [SDF Facts](#)

Supervision: General and Public Health Supervision

Effective October 3, 2018, the Board adopted rules that allow dental hygienists to use silver diamine fluoride under public health supervision.

Kansas

Scope of Practice: [§65-1456](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Sept. 15, 2017, page 3](#)

Supervision: Direct or General

Scope of practice includes protecting the teeth from dental caries. Further, the board concluded that a licensed dental hygienist can utilize and apply SDF

Kentucky

Board Meeting Minutes: [July 14, 2018, page 3](#)

The Board formed a SDF Committee to review the issue of whether dental hygienists may apply SDF. The first SDF committee meeting was held September 2018. The matter is still pending.

Louisiana

Scope of Practice: [§701\(B\)](#)

Supervision: Direct

A dental hygienist may be delegated by a dentist any chairside dental act which the dentist deems reasonable, using sound professional judgment.

Maine

Scope of Practice: [§02-313](#)

Supervision: General or Public Health Supervision

Scope of practice allows dental hygienist to apply fluoride to control caries and apply desensitizing agents. Under Public Health Supervision, a dental hygienist may also apply fluoride. Additionally, under Public Health Supervision, a dental hygienist may apply topical antimicrobials (excluding antibiotics), including fluoride for the purposes of bacterial reduction, caries control and desensitization in the oral cavity. The practitioner must follow current manufacturer's instructions in the use of these medicaments.

Maryland

Scope of Practice: [Health Occupations §4-101](#)

Board's Permissible Procedures: [Sept. 20, 2017](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice allows dental hygienist to apply medicinal agent to a tooth for a prophylactic purpose and the Board includes SDF on its permissible procedures chart.

Massachusetts

Scope of Practice: [234 CMR 5.11](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Dec. 7, 2016](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice allows dental hygienist to apply anti-cariogenic agents, including fluoride varnish.

Michigan

Scope of Practice: [R338.11408](#)

Michigan DHHS: [SDF Guidelines](#)

Supervision: Assignment

According to SDF guidelines, dentists and registered dental hygienists are permitted to apply SDF under the same authorization or restriction as other topical fluorides.

Minnesota

Scope of Practice: [§3100.8700](#)

Supervision: General

Dental hygienist may apply topical medications, including fluoride and desensitizing agents.

Mississippi

Scope of Practice: [§73-9-5](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Feb. 23, 2018](#)

Supervision: Direct

At its 02/23/2018 meeting, the Board APPROVED the administration of Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) by licensed Mississippi dental hygienists as part of their dental hygiene practices under the direct supervision of, and following diagnosis and treatment planning by, a licensed Mississippi dentist.

Missouri

Scope of Practice: [20 CSR 2110-2.130](#)

Supervision: General

A hygienist may apply fluoride without a dentist being present.

Montana

Scope of Practice: [Rule: 24.138.407](#) & [Rule 24.138.419](#)

Supervision: General and Limited Access Permit

Scope of practice includes applying topical fluoride agents. Additionally, the Board approved 38% SDF as an allowable topical agent under limited prescriptive authority for limited access permit dental hygienists.

Nebraska

Scope of Practice: [§38-1131](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: Oct. 28, 2016 & [Jan. 12, 2018](#)

Supervision: General and Public Health Authorization

Dental hygienist may apply preventive measures, including the application of fluorides, sealants, and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease. Further, the Board opined a dental hygienist with a Public Health Authorization may apply SDF independently in a public health setting.

Nevada

Scope of Practice: [NAC 631.210 \(m\)](#)

Board Advisory Opinion: [AO-07192019-1](#)

Supervision: General

Dental hygienist may administer local intraoral chemotherapeutic agents in any form except aerosol, including, but not limited to fluoride preparations and desensitizing agents.

During the Board's July 19, 2019 meeting, the Board issued an advisory opinion that placement of silver diamine and glass ionomer is within the scope of practice of a dental hygienist who holds a public health endorsement. To place these materials, the endorsement must meet the requirements of NAC 631.210(6)(b). The Board recommends dental hygienists follow the Nevada Policy for the Application of Silver Diamine Fluoride by Licensed Public Health Endorsed Dental Hygienists, including the use of informed consent.

New Hampshire

Scope of Practice: [Den 402.01\(a\)\(15\)](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [March 7, 2016](#)

Supervision: General

Dental hygienists may apply topical preventive and anesthetic agents, including silver diamine fluoride.

New Jersey

Scope of Practice: [§13:30-1A.4](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [June 7, 2017](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes application of fluoride and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease. Additionally, board approved the use of SDF by dental hygienists with general supervision.

New Mexico

Scope of Practice: [§61-5A-4-B\(5\)](#)

Supervision: General

A dental hygienist may apply fluorides and other topical therapeutic and preventive agents.

New York

Scope of Practice: [§61.9](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes performing topical anticariogenic agent applications, including but not limited to topical fluoride applications.

North Carolina

Scope of Practice: [21 NCAC 16G .0101](#)

Supervision: General

SDF is specifically listed as a delegable function for a dental hygienist.

North Dakota

Scope of Practice: [20-04-01-01](#)

Board Guidance: [SDF](#)

Supervision: General

Dental hygienists may apply topical applications of drugs to the surface tissues of the mouth and to exposed surfaces of the teeth, including anticariogenic agents and desensitizing solutions. Board guidance clarifies this includes SDF.

Ohio

Scope of Practice: [4715.23 & 4715.431](#)

Supervision: Assignment and Teledentistry

Dental hygienist may apply SDF after completing board-approved course.

Oklahoma

Scope of Practice: [§195:15-1-6](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Jan 19, 2018](#)

Supervision: Direct, Indirect, or General

The Board decided dental hygienists, after the dentist has diagnosed patient and prescribes SDF as a treatment, may apply SDF.

Oregon

Scope of Practice: [§679.010](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Dec. 19, 2014](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes application of fluoride. The Board concluded that SDF falls under the umbrella of fluoride use.

Pennsylvania

Scope of Practice: [§33.205](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes application of fluorides and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral diseases.

Rhode Island

Scope of Practice: [§216-40-05-2](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Jan 3, 2018](#)

Supervision: General

The application of SDF by dental hygienists and public health dental hygienists is allowed under the general supervision of a dentist.

South Carolina

Scope of Practice: [§40-15-102](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes fluoride treatment.

South Dakota

Scope of Practice: [§36-6A-40](#)

Board Advisory Opinion: [October 20, 2017](#)

Supervision: Direct or General

Through an advisory opinion, the Board stated it is within the scope of practice of a dentist to use silver diamine fluoride to treat dental caries, and to delegate its application to a dental hygienist. However, the application of SDF is not a delegable procedure to a dental hygienist under collaborative supervision.

Tennessee

Scope of Practice: [§0460-03-.09](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes application of topical fluoride and desensitizing agents.

Texas

Scope of Practice: [§115.2](#)

Supervision: Direct or General

Dental hygienist may topically apply drugs to the surface tissues of the human mouth or the exposed surface of human teeth.

Utah

Scope of Practice: [§58-69-102](#)

Supervision: General

Dental hygienists may provide dental hygiene care in accordance with a dentist's treatment plan for a patient.

Vermont

Scope of Practice: [§624](#) and [§10.6](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [Oct 10, 2018](#) & [Nov 14, 2018](#)

Supervision: General and Public Settings

At the Board's October 10, 2018 and November 14, 2018 meetings, it waived the restrictions of Rule 10.6 to allow Dental Hygienists and Public Health Dental Hygienists to incorporate Silver Diamine Fluoride in their practice. At this time the Board incorporated a protocol.

Virginia

Scope of Practice: [§54.1-2722](#)

Board Meeting Minutes: [March 9, 2018](#)

Supervision: Direct or General

The Board stated under current law, it is permissible for dental hygienists to apply SDF.

Washington

Scope of Practice: [WAC 246-817-550](#)

Dental Quality Assurance Commission Minutes: [Sept 8, 2017](#)

Supervision: General

The Department of Health considers SDF a topical preventive agent.

West Virginia

Scope of Practice: [§5-13-6](#)

Supervision: General

Dental hygienists may apply topical anticariogenic agents.

Wisconsin

Scope of Practice: [DE 3.02](#)

Supervision: General

Dental hygienist may only practice dental hygiene, as defined in s. 447.01 (3), or perform remediable procedures, as defined in s. 447.01 (12). This includes performance of educational, preventive or therapeutic dental services and procedures that create changes within the oral cavity or surrounding structures that are reversible and do not involve any increased health risks to the patient.

Wyoming

Scope of Practice: [Chapter 7](#)

Board Guidance: [Practice Questions](#)

Supervision: General

Scope of practice includes applying topical medications and the Board concurs that fluoride applications are topical medications. The Board concurs that fluoride applications are topical medications. Therefore, dental hygienists can apply fluoride under general supervision.

ⁱ Association of State & Territorial Dental Directors. (2017). *Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) Fact Sheet*. Retrieved from <https://www.astdd.org/www/docs/sdf-fact-sheet-09-07-2017.pdf>