

New credentialing pathway for public health dental hygienists

Rhode Island established a pathway for licensed Public Health Dental Hygienists (PHDH) to independently credential and bill Medicaid using their own tax ID number (TIN). This allows PHDHs to perform delegated hygiene procedures in approved public health settings without the immediate or direct supervision of a dentist, provided there is a formal collaborative agreement in place. This regulation supports the expansion of preventive oral health services in public health settings, as identified under **R.I. Gen. Laws § 5 31.1 39**.*

Eligibility criteria for independent PHDH credentialing

To enroll as an independently credentialed provider with a unique TIN, PHDHs must:

- **Hold an active Rhode Island PHDH license**
- **Complete Medicaid enrollment as a provider**
 - Enrollment is completed through riproviderportal.org allowing the PHDH to bill Medicaid directly under their own credentials
- **Establish a collaborative agreement**
 - A written collaborative agreement is required between the PHDH and a Rhode Island licensed Medicaid-enrolled dentist. This agreement must:
 - o Be formal and signed by both parties
 - o Outline delegated services
 - o Comply with standards established by the Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry
 - o Permit the PHDH to perform services in public health settings without direct supervision
- **Complete credentialing and contracting requirements**
 - Complete a Dental Benefit Providers contract
 - Complete initial credentialing through Skygen
 - Submit a W 9, TIN and all federally required disclosures
 - Complete revalidation for Medicaid enrollment every 5 years
- **Maintain practice within allowed public health settings**
 - These may include, but are not limited to:
 - o Community health centers
 - o Nursing homes



Questions?

Contact the UnitedHealthcare Dental Provider Services team at **877-378-5303**. We're here to help you navigate this process. Thank you for expanding access to care in Rhode Island.

- **Maintain practice within allowed public health settings (cont.)**

- These may include, but are not limited to:

- o Schools
 - o Head Start programs
 - o Hospitals
 - o Public health clinics
 - o Additional sites approved by the Department of Health

* webserver.rilegislature.gov/statutes/title5/5-31.1/5-31.1-39.htm