Perpetua Okonkwo-Reyes

Dental Hygienist

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SUMMARY

Licensed dental hygienist with 6 years of experience in general and pediatric practices, averaging 9 patients a day. Known for catching early periodontal disease on routine visits and for getting anxious patients through their first cleaning without sedation. Comfortable with digital charting and local anesthesia.

EXPERIENCE

Dental Hygienist — Saguaro Family Dental

Tucson, AZ · Aug 2022 – Present

- Perform 9 to 10 adult and adolescent cleanings a day, including scaling, root planing and periodontal charting on Dentrix.
- Flagged early-stage periodontitis in 4 to 5 patients a month who would have otherwise waited a year between visits, getting them onto a 3-month recall.
- Walked a 14-year-old patient with severe dental anxiety through 3 visits using a desensitization approach, ending the need for nitrous oxide by the third cleaning.
- Took and processed digital X-rays for 30 patients a week, cutting retake rate from 9% to 2% by adjusting sensor placement technique.
- Educated patients on home care using disclosing solution and tailored flossing demos, raising 6-month recall plaque scores by a visible margin for 60% of patients tracked.

Dental Hygienist — Rincon Pediatric & Family Dentistry

Tucson, AZ · Feb 2019 – Jul 2022

- Cleaned and examined 7 to 8 pediatric and adult patients a day, applying fluoride varnish and sealants to 400+ molars a year.
- Built a 5-minute pre-visit routine for toddlers' first cleanings that cut average chair-time crying from several minutes to under one.
- Assisted the dentist with 2 to 3 extractions a week by prepping instruments and monitoring patients under local anesthesia.
- Trained 3 incoming hygienists on the practice's charting software and infection-control protocol during their first month.

SKILLS

Clinical: Scaling and root planing, periodontal charting, fluoride varnish, sealants, local anesthesia administration

Imaging: Digital X-rays (bitewing, periapical, panoramic), intraoral cameras

Software: Dentrix, Eaglesoft, electronic health records

Patient care: Anxiety management, patient education, pediatric and geriatric care

CERTIFICATIONS

Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH), Arizona, 2019

CPR/BLS Certified, current

EDUCATION

A.S. Dental Hygiene, Pima Community College, 2019

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