

During an interview there will be different types of questions asked. Use this list to practice so you know what to expect.

Informational Questions –

- 1) Tell me about yourself.
- 2) Can you walk me through your resume?
- 3) What made you want to become a dental hygienist?
- 4) How are you qualified for this position?
- 5) What are you looking for in a dental hygiene position?
- 6) How long will it take you to make a meaningful contribution to our office?
- 7) How do you define success?
- 8) What do you find most attractive about this position? What seems least attractive?
- 9) Describe your work ethic and approach to dentistry?
- 10) What do you like most about being a dental hygienist? What do you like least?
- 11) How long do you plan to work with us? What are your long-term goals?
- 12) Do you consider yourself a leader?
- 13) Describe something you are passionate about.
- 14) How do you make your patients feel comfortable?
- 15) What do you think are the most important qualities in being a good hygienist?
- 16) What is your greatest strength?
- 17) What is your biggest weakness?
- 18) Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

Behavioral Questions –

- 1) Have you ever had a disagreement with a boss or a professor? How was it resolved?
- 2) Tell me about a time when you worked successfully on a team.
- 3) What mistakes have you made as a dental hygienist and what did you learn from these mistakes?
- 4) Describe a time when you were faced with a stressful situation that demonstrated your coping skills.
- 5) Has a patient ever been disrespectful to you and what did you do?
- 6) By providing examples, convince me that you can adapt to a wide variety of people, situations and environments.
- 7) Describe a situation where others you were working with on a project disagreed with your ideas. What did you do?
- 8) Describe a situation in which you found that your results were not up to your professor's or supervisor's expectations. What happened? What action did you take?
- 9) Describe a situation where others you were working with on a project disagreed with your ideas. What did you do?
- 10) Describe a situation that required a number of things to be done at the same time. How did you handle it? What was the result?
- 11) What can you do to make a patient feel comfortable in your chair?

Technical Questions –

- 1) Describe your level of proficiency in the use of LASER?
- 2) Describe your use of ultrasonic scalers and hand instruments when performing non-surgical periodontal therapy.

- 3) How do you determine how often to have patients return for routine care?
- 4) What are the guidelines you use for determining whether a patient should have radiographs?
- 5) Which patients in your care will receive fluoride treatments?
- 6) Do you use ultrasonic on every patient? What determines this use?
- 7) How will you handle the scheduling of recare appointments?
- 8) How much time do you need for rootplaning and scaling? Perio maintenance? Child prophys? Adult prophys?
- 9) What will you do during down time?
- 10) Is there any dental softwares you feel is important to have in an office? Which ones and why?

Case/Scenario Questions – please ask one of these questions for each candidate.

You are working in an office that has just purchased a practice from a retiring dentist. Most adult patients have undiagnosed periodontal disease. You have heard from more than one patient that the dentist said, “calculus is nature’s way of protecting the teeth.” How will you proceed with these patients?

You are working *without* the dentist in an office on a Saturday. You notice your next patient is scheduled for SRP’s with local anesthetic. How will you proceed with this patient?

You are a new hygienist but have a patient record (10+ years) in your chair. You have completed a thorough periodontal exam including radiographs. You feel this patient needs four quadrants of scaling and rootplaning. After completing the exam and noting no carious lesions, the dentist instructs you to schedule the patient back for their 6-month recare. How do you handle this situation?

You have a patient of record with no insurance who’s last BWX was over 3 years ago. This patient’s last FMX was 5 years ago. The patient refuses to have radiographs. How do you handle this situation?

Tell me how you will handle a patient that refuses to floss or take care of their teeth?

You have a patient that is 20 minutes late for a hygiene appointment. Looking at the schedule, the patient needs BWX and a prophyl. When the patient walks in what do you do?

While doing a perio maintenance on your patient, their cell phone rings. The patient abruptly takes the call. You are 10 minutes behind your schedule for that day. How do you handle this situation?

You are behind in your schedule. To catch up, which part of the appointment can you delete on your next patient? OHI, Oral Cancer Screening, Radiographs, Periodontal Charting