

Dental Radiography

Course Information

Developers: Dental Hygiene State Curriculum Committee

Bobette Maier, Colby Community College; Rhonda Weatherbie, Flint Hills Technical College; Cheryl Bosiljevac, Flint Hills Technical College; Tony Kim, Manhattan Area Technical College; Cheryl Seitz, Manhattan Area Technical College; Kylie Austin, Manhattan Area Technical College; Margaret LoGiudice, Johnson County Community College; Terry Callihan, Johnson County Community College; Lenora Clark, Johnson County Community College.

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KBOR Facilitators: Rita Johnson/Shirley Antes/April Henry

Total Credits: 2 credits

Description

This course prepares the dental hygiene-student to expose, process and critique intra and extraoral radiographs for clinical practice. Emphasis is placed on technique and individual patient radiographic need using standardized ALARA concepts. Students process, mount and evaluate radiographs for diagnostic value associated with patient care. Radiation production, biology and safety are required for students to make informed decisions and adjustments for optimum patient care.

Competencies:

1. Describe the properties of radiation and its production in a dental X-ray unit.
2. Describe the biological effects of ionizing radiation, and practice principles of radiation hygiene and safety as they relate to the dental office.
3. Identify and discuss film characteristics: density, contrast definition and distortion.
4. Demonstrate the ability to expose diagnostically acceptable bitewing, periapical, occlusal and panoramic radiographs on pedodontic and adult patients.
5. Describe the general principles of darkroom construction, equipment and safe lighting, and process exposed radiographs utilizing proper darkroom procedures.
6. Correctly mount, label and critique intra and extraoral radiographs.
7. Differentiate between radiographic anatomical landmarks and abnormal anatomy or findings.
8. Describe and perform the proper maintenance procedures for processing and imaging dental radiographs.
9. Evaluate radiographs for film quality, technique and processing errors.
10. Conduct patient education to various age groups utilizing radiographs as an educational tool.

11. Determine frequency and type of radiographic exposure based on patient need and clinical considerations.
12. Demonstrate proficiency in duplicating radiographs.
13. Demonstrate proper infection control procedures when exposing radiographs in the clinic and processing in the darkroom or imaging room.