Dental Hygiene Protocol

• **Three RDHs will staff EACH dental unit.** If you have one or two RDHs that you would like to work with, report to any dental unit and set up your station. If you are alone, we will assign you to complete a team of three.

• Each RDH in each team of three will receive (rotate) a lunch or break assignment to ensure that each dental unit is continually in use.

• **Each team of three will rotate performing the following duties:** Debridement, Assisting-Break-down and Set-up, and Sterilization-Supply retrieval.

• **Supplies and hygiene instruments** are located in bins at the T end of the Dental Hygiene aisle of dental units.

• **When you are ready to seat a dental hygiene patient/client,** **hold up a GREEN CARD** to signal to an ESCORT to bring a patient to your unit.

• **Review Medical/Dental Health History Intake form and check for any medical alerts.**

• **Provide dental hygiene services, which may include:** debridement, polishing, and fluoride treatments. *Keep in mind that you should limit yourself to 30 minutes for each adult and 20 minutes for each child.*

• **Local anesthesia will be administered at the Numbing Station ONLY;** topical anesthesia will be available if necessary.

• **Record all services rendered on the patient record in INK;** sign and date the form.

• **When you have completed patient treatment,** **hold up a RED CARD** to signal to an ESCORT to bring your patient and his or her form to the **CHECK OUT** Station and then on to the **Patient Education/ Oral Hygiene Instruction Treatment Area.** Do not send completed hygiene patients to any other treatment area unless instructed by the Dental Hygiene Lead.

*(OVER)*
• Bring all contaminated instruments on your tray, to the CENTRAL STERILIZATION AREA. Remove and properly dispose of all disposable items and SHARPS at indicated area; your tray should only contain instruments.

• Disinfect your unit and run your suction lines after each patient/client. 
  *If you require assistance during your appointment, such as supplies, etc…hold up a YELLOW CARD*. If you have an OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE or a MEDICAL EMERGENCY, *hold up a White Card with a Red Cross*. If you're having technical problems with your unit, hold up an ORANGE CARD for assistance from a Technician.

HYGIENE Co-LEAD: Judy DiLorenzo 518-339-3372 and Roseanne Henley 518-281-6503