



QAP Assessment Tool Q&A

What is the QAP Assessment Tool?

The QAP Assessment Tool is an online, 75-question assessment tool that will be completed by all registrants once every five years. The QAP Assessment Tool is completed at a time and place convenient to each individual and will be open-book, to be completed individually in a timed 2.5-hour period. The QAP Assessment Tool will measure registrants' knowledge of foundational dental hygiene competencies and provide feedback to registrants that may help guide Continuing Competency choices during their five-year cycle. The QAP Assessment Tool was developed by dental hygienists for dental hygienists in partnership with the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board (NDHCB). The items on the QAP Assessment Tool were selected to suit practicing dental hygienists and are largely case-based, real-world dental hygiene practice scenarios.

What is the purpose of the QAP Assessment Tool?

The QAP Assessment Tool was designed specifically to meet the requirement under the *Health Professions Act* for an assessment of registrants' practice quality, as well as to provide useful feedback to registrants regarding their current knowledge of foundational dental hygiene competencies. It is widely accepted that medical knowledge has a relatively short half-life, usually estimated between two to five years; this means that two years from the day of graduation, half of the information learned by health professionals becomes obsolete. In addition, rapid changes in health care technology and research challenge the health professional to constantly update and add to his/her expertise. Dental hygienists need to be aware of new techniques and knowledge that may impact the services they render to clients and oral health. The completion of an assessment tool once every five years provides evidence and assurance to the public that dental hygienists are up-to-date and continually demonstrate a level of measurable competence and are not relying solely on knowledge that was gained when they first entered the profession. In addition, results of the QAP Assessment Tool will be incorporated into the [Online Learning Plan](#) (OLP) of the registrants and will inform their guided learning process.

When do registrants have to complete it?

The QAP Assessment Tool is completed at the start of the five-year QAP cycle, during January or February. Completion of the QAP Assessment Tool is a mandatory requirement and the first attempt must be completed before registration renewal will be permitted; the renewal deadline is the last day of February. Registrants in the non-practicing category are not required to complete the QAP Assessment Tool. Non-practicing registrants will defer their requirement to complete the QAP Assessment Tool until converting back to a practicing registration category. When converting from non-practicing to practicing categories, the QAP Assessment Tool must be completed within 60 days from the conversion date.

How can a registrant prepare to take the QAP Assessment Tool?

Every registrant may choose to prepare differently for the QAP Assessment Tool. Some registrants may find it helpful to consider the skills and knowledge that they already have in order to determine areas for review. The [QAP Information Guide](#) (pages 9 to 34) has been created to help registrants with this process.

How much does it cost?

The QAP Assessment Tool cost is \$125.00 (plus tax) for each attempt and is paid by credit card prior to taking the Assessment Tool. Please note that registrants pay this fee directly to NDHCB. Note: The QAP cycle length was extended by two years (75 CC credits in five years instead of three) to balance the impact of the time and cost to registrants.

How do registrants get their results and what should they do next?

Following completion of the QAP Assessment Tool, registrants can review their results via the new [Online Learning Plan](#) (OLP) module; incorrect responses will be grouped by category, and the registrant will be able to view the areas that the QAP Assessment Tool identifies as needing improvement. Registrants then use the OLP to create learning plans and assign areas for improvement to learning goals and continuing education activities.

What happens if a registrant is not successful?

In the case of an unsuccessful result on the QAP Assessment Tool, a registrant will be granted a second attempt that must be completed within 60 days of the first attempt. The registrant will be responsible for paying an additional \$125.00 (plus tax) to NDHCB for the second attempt at the QAP Assessment Tool. In the case of a second unsuccessful attempt, the registrant will be contacted to confirm results and will be partnered with an assessor, who will work with the registrant to conduct a further practice assessment and develop appropriate learning goals.

Are registrants responsible for protecting the security of the Assessment Tool?

Registrants are key participants in upholding the security of the Tool and as such, should not reproduce, copy, save, or share in any way any content of the Tool. When taking the Tool, a registrant must agree to the *Statement of Understanding*. That *Statement* commits each registrant to complying with the following terms:

- Complete the QAP Assessment Tool individually without help from any other person
- Refrain from any behaviour that would breach the confidentiality/security of the QAP Assessment Tool
- Refrain from engaging in any process that violates the purpose and principles of the QAP Assessment Tool
- Report any instance of cheating to the CDHBC and/or the NDHCB as soon as possible

