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# Canadian Dental Hygienists Association Position Statements

## **Heart disease**

Recent research indicates a low-to-moderate association between periodontal disease and heart disease and a moderate association between periodontal disease and stroke. In light of this, dental hygienists should educate clients at risk for these diseases about the potential risks and encourage oral disease prevention and treatment for this client population.

## **Diabetes**

Recent research indicates mounting evidence of a probable bi-directional association between periodontal disease and diabetes. In light of this, periodontal prevention and treatment programs for persons with diabetes should be available, regardless of income level. In addition, dental hygienists should consider incorporating the following dental hygiene diagnosis and treatment issues into their practices; however, all clinical decisions should be based on the needs of the specific client:

- Educate clients with diabetes about the probable association between diabetes and periodontal disease and provide disease prevention and treatment services for individuals with diabetes.
- Increase interprofessional collaboration and communication between dental hygienists and other health professionals working with persons with diabetes. These new opportunities can focus on oral/general health assessments, leadership capacity, policy development, surveillance, program delivery, and evaluation.