Dental Hygiene Appointment Breakdown

8:00 Greet and Seat
8:03 Review Medical History, build rapport
   Blood Pressure Screening (Once a year)
   BP Cuff is placed on the patient’s brachial artery or wrist while you review
   medical history, ask about xerostomia, halitosis, pain or sensitive teeth,
   chart notes about patient, findings, etc.
8:07 Intraoral/Extraoral exam
8:10 Once a year (Alternate these) Radiographs, (Unless CAMBRA indicates
   more frequently.) Diagnodent or caries screening tools, Periodontal
   Screening. (At each appointment a probe needs to be picked up and
   measure areas of suspect or 4mms. and greater. Always chart pockets at
   every appointment that are greater than 4mms and chart bleeding upon
   probing. These are signs of disease.)
   ♦ Notify Doctor he/she can leisurely come in for exam
     before appt. time ends.
   ♦ Discuss findings with patient and continue while
     treatment is being provided.
8:20 Begin scaling and end with polishing. Also provide oral hygiene instructions
   and/or comments about homecare and recommend products.
8:40 Doctor needs to have entered the hygiene room to do the exam by now
   ♦ Discuss treatment plan and options
   ♦ Schedule future appointments
   ♦ Communication / Q & A
   ♦ Financial arrangements (This may be done in a private
     office. Many offices have a financial coordinator to
     discuss this. It is especially important to discuss larger
     and more extensive treatment options and financial
     arrangements in a private consultation room.)
   ♦ Dismiss patient
   ♦ Clean and prepare room for next patient

+++ This is only a guide to serve as a reference and one option for providing
optimal treatment to dental hygiene patients.

++ If your patient is not coming in for a Prophylaxis or Periodontal Maintenance
appointment but a Scaling and Root Planing or Gross Debridement, you will want
to customize this template to meet the patient’s needs for the appointment time.