

Is it within the scope of practice of a dentist to use silver diamine fluoride to treat dental caries, and to delegate its application to a dental hygienist – Advisory Opinion.

It is within the scope of licensed dentists pursuant to SDCL § 36-6A-31(1)(2)(3)(8) and (13) to utilize the use of silver diamine fluoride to treat dental caries. Said use should follow an appropriate diagnosis and the establishment of a treatment plan. A dentist may delegate the application of silver diamine fluoride to the following:

- A dental hygienist under general supervision;
- A dental hygienist under direct supervision; or
- A registered dental assistant under direct supervision.

The application of silver diamine fluoride is not a delegable procedure to a dental hygienist under collaborative supervision.

This advisory opinion was rendered by the Board upon submission of a written request. Although advisory opinions are not judicially reviewable and do not have the force and effect of law, they do serve as a guideline for dental hygienists who wish to engage in safe dental hygiene practices. This advisory opinion was adopted at the meeting of the South Dakota Board of Dentistry on October 20, 2017.