

# US and Colorado Oral Hygiene History

US events are listed in blue. Colorado events are listed in orange.



Alfred Fones

**1907**

**Concept of dental hygienist introduced.** Alfred Fones, a dentist in Connecticut, employed his cousin, Irene Newman, and trained her to perform dental cleanings on his patients.



**1887**

Colorado State Dental Association established.



**1913**

Dr. Fones opens the first dental hygiene school in Bridgeport, Connecticut



Graduates of the first class of dental hygienists, June 6, 1914. (1)

**1916**

Salida, CO - Dr. Charles Monroe discusses the work of Dr. Fones in a talk on public health dentistry. Dr. R. W. Corwin, Chief Surgeon of the CO Fuel and Iron Company (CF&I) asks about the possibility of employing dental hygienists in the company health program.



**1917**

As a result of the 1916 meeting, CF&I includes the services of dental hygienists, hiring two of the graduating hygienists from Dr. Fones first graduating class in Connecticut.



Irene Newman graduated from the first dental hygiene school (begun by Dr. Fones) and is the first "registered dental hygienist"



Irene Newman

**1919**

Colorado established the dental hygiene license. Licensed dental hygienists can examine & clean teeth in schools, public or charitable institutes or programs, as well as be employed in dental offices.



First class of dental hygienists graduated from University of Denver School of Dental Hygiene.

The Colorado Society of Dental Hygiene established.

**1923**

American Dental Hygienists' Association established



**1952**

Every state has dental hygienists



**1961**

Colorado allows for dental hygienists to practice in the office of their employing dentist without the dentist being present 14 days per year.



**1965**

First male licensed dental hygienist



**1968**

First dental hygiene board exam



**1978**

Colorado statute allows dental hygienists to practice in "various institutions and clinics run by corporations for their employees without personal direction of a dentist". Gates Rubber Company obtained the statute amendment so that dental hygienists could provide services on days that the staff dentist was not present.



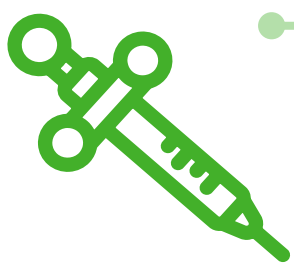
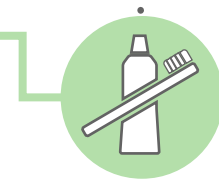
**1985-1986**

Colorado statute allows dental hygienists to own their own dental hygiene practice and practice without the supervision of a dentist.



**2009**

Dental hygienists can administer anesthesia with indirect supervision of a dentist.



**2015**

Colorado Medical-Dental Integration (CO MDI) project begins. CO MDI is a Delta Dental of Colorado Foundation initiative.



(1) Image from: Mouth hygiene, a course of instruction for dental hygienists; a text-book containing the fundamentals for prophylactic operators, comp. by Alfred C. Fones / 1916 Retrieved from: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/rosefireris-ing/358942293/in/album-72157594477464752/>

(2) Photo courtesy of Wm Morford Auctions Retrieved from: <http://antiqueadvertising.com/free-antique-price-guide/antique-signs/colorado-fuel-and-iron-coal-sign/>