New Mexico Advanced Certification Information

This form is valid through Dec. 31, 2018.

The New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care (NMBDHC) certifies dental assistants in expanded functions in the State of New Mexico. The NMBDHC recognizes the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) Coronal Polish (CP) exam as its certification exam in rubber cup coronal polishing, the DANB® Sealants (SE) exam as its certification exam in application of pit and fissure sealants and the DANB Topical Fluoride (TF) exam as its certification exam in application of topical fluoride. In order to legally perform expanded functions under the general supervision of a licensed dentist in the state of New Mexico, a dental assistant must earn state certification in each of the desired expanded functions.

To obtain each New Mexico advanced certification one must complete all of the following requirements:

Rubber Cup Coronal Polishing*
1. Assist with/observe five cases of rubber cup coronal polishing on children and/or adults
2. Pass the DANB CP exam
3. Apply to the NMBDHC for advanced certification in coronal polishing
4. Pass the New Mexico take-home jurisprudence exam
5. Perform rubber cup coronal polishing on four adults and four children under the personal supervision of a licensed dentist or dental hygienist

Application of Pit and Fissure Sealants*
1. Have 2,080 hours of dental assisting chairside experience in the two years prior to application
2. Assist with/observe placement of 12 pit and fissure sealants on children and/or adults
3. Pass the DANB SE exam
4. Apply to the NMBDHC for advanced certification in pit and fissure sealants
5. Pass the New Mexico take-home jurisprudence exam
6. Perform application of pit and fissure sealants on six children and/or adults under the personal supervision of a licensed dentist or dental hygienist

Application of Topical Fluoride*
1. Assist with/observe five cases of application of topical fluoride on children and/or adults
2. Pass the DANB TF exam
3. Apply to the NMBDHC for advanced certification in topical fluoride
4. Pass the New Mexico take-home jurisprudence exam
5. Perform application of topical fluoride on four adults and four children under the personal supervision of a licensed dentist or dental hygienist

Apply for certification from the NMBDHC after completing all of the above requirements.

All inquiries regarding certification, eligibility requirements and requests for certification applications should be addressed to: New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care, P.O. Box 25101, Santa Fe, NM 87505-5101; 1-505-476-4680

*The NMBDHC will issue a certificate to DANB Certified Dental Assistant™ (CDA®) certificants for rubber cup coronal polishing, application of pit and fissure sealants, and/or application of topical fluoride without being required to meet the other requirements of this section. To request a current DANB CDA exam application packet, visit www.danb.org to download a copy or call 1-800-367-3262.

To apply for the CP, SE or TF exam(s), download DANB’s Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA) exam application packet at www.danb.org or call 1-800-367-3262. Exam candidates will be responsible for reading, understanding and complying with the policies and procedures in the Candidate Handbook, available at www.danb.org.

Direct all questions regarding DANB exams to DANB at 1-800-367-3262.