Coronal Polishing (CP)

Exam Outline and Suggested References

The CP exam is a component of the Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA®) certification program.

CPFDA component exams
Coronal Polishing (CP)
Sealants (SE)
Topical Fluoride (TF)

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Exam Outline Overview

CP Exam Weighting by Domain

I. Evaluation (15%)
II. Selection of Armamentarium (20%)
III. Procedure (39%)
IV. Administration (26%)

CP Exam Administration

- Number of Questions: 100
- Time for Exam: 75 minutes
- Tutorial Time: 5 minutes
- Comment Time: 5 minutes

DANB uses computer adaptive testing (CAT) to present questions to candidates. Each candidate starts with a question at or around the pass point. If the candidate gets a question correct, the next question will be slightly harder. If the question is incorrectly answered, the next question will be slightly easier. Question selection takes into account the content of the question, as each candidate is presented with the same percentage of questions from each domain on the exam outline. Using this method of testing, DANB can more accurately pinpoint a candidate’s ability level. The average candidate will get around 50% of the questions correct and around 50% of the questions incorrect. The candidate’s score is based on the difficulty of the questions that were answered correctly.
CP Exam Outline

DANB exams are created using the exam outline, which is reviewed annually by subject matter experts (e.g., Certified Dental Assistant™ [CDA®] certificants and dentists). The outline is developed using a content validation study (CVS), which includes a job analysis survey where practicing CDA/Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistant (CPFDA®) certificants are surveyed about how often tasks are performed and how important competent performance of tasks is to the health and safety of the public. This study is conducted every five to seven years to ensure the outline is consistent with current clinical practices. DANB’s Board of Directors approves all updates to DANB exam outlines. The CP exam measures a candidate’s knowledge of national practices for coronal polishing procedures.

Domain I: Evaluation (15%)

A. Describe how to complete and review patient medical and dental history.

B. Identify anatomy and pathologies of the oral cavity, including but not limited to:
   1. dental arches, quadrants and sextants.
   2. primary, mixed and permanent dentitions.
   3. tooth divisions and surfaces.
   4. using the Universal numbering system.

C. Describe characteristics of dental plaque, dental calculus, and materia alba, including but not limited to:
   1. characteristics.
   2. common locations.
   3. composition.
   4. disease progression.
   5. formation stages.
   6. significance.

D. Identify stain types based on formation, including but not limited to:
   1. endogenous.
   2. exogenous.
   3. extrinsic.
   4. intrinsic.
E. Identify types of dental restorations.
F. Describe the difference between a coronal polish versus an oral prophylaxis as part of treatment.

Domain II: Selection of Armamentarium (20%)
A. Identify armamentarium needed for a coronal polish procedure.
B. Describe characteristics, indications, and contraindications of abrasives and polishing agents.
C. Determine prophy angle for the patient.
D. Identify personal protective equipment (PPE) required during a coronal polish by:
   1. operator.
   2. patient.

Domain III: Procedure (39%)
A. Describe positioning (ergonomics) for:
   1. equipment.
   2. operator.
   3. patient.
B. Describe how to operate the speed, pressure, and control for a slow speed handpiece in relation to:
   1. adaptation of polishing cup.
   2. aerosol production.
   3. demineralization.
   4. heat production.
   5. implants.
   6. removal of a tooth structure.
   7. restorations.
   8. tooth sensitivity.
C. Describe use and placement of a fulcrum.
D. Describe steps of coronal polish procedure including polishing stroke pattern and sequence.
E. Describe how to floss teeth for a coronal polish.

F. Demonstrate understanding of safety and standard precautions as they relate to infection control, including but not limited to:
   1. disinfection of treatment room and equipment.
   2. sterilization of instruments used in a coronal polish.

G. Understand maintenance of armamentarium for a coronal polish, including but not limited to:
   1. prophy angle.
   2. slow speed handpiece.

**Domain IV: Administration (26%)**

A. Demonstrate how to maintain records, including but not limited to:
   1. clinical/treatment notes.
   2. legal requirements.

B. Understand how to provide patient information, including but not limited to:
   1. objective of a coronal polish.
   2. patient education, including oral disease prevention and progression.
   3. pre- and post-operative instructions.

C. Demonstrate understanding of how to maintain patient privacy in accordance with Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

D. Understand how to use and maintain safety data sheets (SDS) for coronal polish materials.
CP Exam Suggested References

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials (excluding the Additional/Optional Study Resources) to develop this exam. This list does not include all the available textbooks and materials for studying for this exam; these are simply the resources that exam committee subject matter experts determined as providing the most up to-date information needed to meet or surpass a determined level of competency for this exam. Any one reference will likely not include all the material required to study to take the exam.

This list is intended to help prepare for this exam. It is not intended to be an endorsement of any of the publications listed. You should prepare for DANB certification and component exams using as many different study materials as possible.

Suggested References

Additional/Optional Study Resources
   - DANB CP Practice Test
   - EFDA Practice Test
   - Glossary of Dental Terms
State Regulations

Each state’s dental board implements regulations and establishes rules for delegating legally allowable duties to dental assistants. Passing one or more of the DANB component exams or earning DANB certification only conveys authority to perform these duties in those states that recognize these exams or this certification as meeting state dental assisting requirements. This information is available at www.danb.org.