Impressions (IM)

Exam Outline and Suggested References

The IM exam is a component of the Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistant (CRFDA®) certification program.

**CRFDA component exams**

Impressions (IM)
Temporaries (TMP)
Sealants (SE)
Restorative Functions (RF)

Effective 03/01/2020
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IM

Exam Outline Overview

**IM Exam Weighting by Domain**

I. Evaluation and Documentation (20%)

II. Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

III. Procedure (60%)

**IM Exam Administration**

- Number of Questions: 80
- Time for Exam: 60 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.
IM Exam Outline

DANB exams are created using the exam outline, which is regularly reviewed 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 Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistant (CRFDA©) 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 IM exam measures a candidate’s knowledge of national impression practices.

Domain I: Evaluation and Documentation (20%)

A. Describe how to review patient medical and dental history and treatment plan.

B. Identify patient anatomy and pathology that should be considered when making impressions.

C. Demonstrate how to maintain records, including but not limited to:
   1. clinical/treatment notes.
   2. documentation of impression materials and procedure.

Domain II: Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

A. Demonstrate understanding of stock and custom trays, including but not limited to:
   1. selecting tray to capture anatomical landmarks.
   2. selecting correct type of tray for the impression material.
   3. patient considerations.
   4. selecting materials to fabricate custom trays.
   5. fabricating custom trays.

B. Demonstrate understanding of impression materials for task.
Domain III: Procedure (60%)

A. Identify personal protective equipment (PPE) required during an impression procedure.

B. Demonstrate understanding of safety and standard precautions as they relate to infection control for impression devices and procedures.

C. Describe patient management techniques for impressions procedures (e.g., explaining procedure to patient, managing gag reflex).

D. Demonstrate understanding of tasks involved in an impression procedure, including but not limited to:
   1. isolation method.
   2. retraction method.
   3. handling material (e.g., mix, set, time).
   4. placing and removing trays.
   5. evaluation of impressions.

E. Describe proper impression procedures, including but not limited to:
   1. preliminary impressions.
   2. final impressions.
   3. digital impressions.
   4. impressions for removable and fixed prostheses and appliances.
   5. bite registrations.
   6. occlusal registrations.

F. Describe how to prepare an impression for the lab, including writing prescriptions.
IM Exam Suggested References

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials to develop this exam (excluding the Additional/Optional Study Resources section). 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 and pass 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.

You may obtain the reference materials below through various libraries and bookstores, or you may contact the publisher directly.

Suggested References


Additional/Optional Study Resources

   • 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 at www.danb.org.