Topical Fluoride (TF)

Exam Outline and Suggested References

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

CPFDA component exams
Coronal Polish (CP)
Sealants (SE)
Topical Fluoride (TF)
Exam Outline Overview

TF Exam Weighting by Domain

I. Evaluation (20%)

II. Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

III. Procedure (40%)

IV. Administration (20%)

TF Exam Administration

- Number of Questions: 80
- Time for Exam: 60 minutes
- Tutorial Time: 5 minutes
- Comment Time: 5 minutes

DANB administers the TF exam as a linear exam. Each candidate is presented with the same percentage of questions from each domain on the exam outline. The candidate’s overall performance on the exam determines the candidate’s pass/fail status.
TF 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 TF exam measures a candidate’s knowledge of national practices for topical fluoride application.

Domain I: Evaluation (20%)

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

B. Identify indications and contraindications for fluoride application, including but not limited to:
   1. abnormalities of the oral cavity.
   2. existing restorations.

Domain II: Selection of Armamentarium (20%)

A. Describe fluoride types, preparations and concentrations, including but not limited to:
   1. acidulated phosphate fluoride.
   2. sodium fluoride (i.e., varnish).
   3. stannous fluoride solution.

B. Determine the method/type of fluoride application.

C. Identify armamentarium needed for a topical fluoride application.

D. Identify personal protective equipment (PPE) required during a topical fluoride application by:
   1. operator.
   2. patient.
Domain III: Procedure (40%)

A. Understand procedures for application of fluoride.

B. Demonstrate understanding of fluoride, including but not limited to:
   1. adverse reactions to a topical fluoride application.
   2. mechanism of action for topical and systemic fluoride.
   3. selection of materials.
   4. sources of fluoride (naturally occurring and supplemental).
   5. uses of fluoride for professional and home care (over-the-counter [OTC] and prescription).

C. Demonstrate understanding of safety/standard infection control precautions as they relate to:
   1. operator.
   2. patient.

D. Demonstrate understanding of patient education, including but not limited to:
   1. general oral disease prevention and progression.
   2. objective of a topical fluoride application.
   3. pre- and post-operative instructions.

Domain IV: Administration (20%)

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

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

C. Understand how to use and maintain safety data sheets (SDS) for topical fluoride products.

D. Maintain storage of topical fluoride materials.
TF Exam Suggested References

DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials 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.

Textbook References


Organizational References

   - *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.