



2019 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Colorado



How to Use the Following Charts

View which job designations are used in your state. **Be sure to follow the legal requirements to perform dental radiographic procedures.** See which tasks are not permitted by state law. Review all the allowable tasks for each level of dental assisting as published in the state practice act.

View the education/training/credential required for each level of dental assisting.

Arizona		State approved 2/19	
Education/Training/Credential Required	Job Title Assigned by State (AZ)	Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)	Dental Assistant
<p>To perform specified restorative functions in order to assist a licensed dentist or a dental assistant, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona Expanded Function - Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements below) and the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the report) Pass the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements below) and the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the report) Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam Pass the national DANB Restorative Procedures Certificate, issued by DANB Be currently certified in another U.S. state as a dental assistant or successful completion of written and clinical dental radiography (ADR) Be an Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) member in good standing and have the Arizona Restorative Procedures Certificate, issued by the ASBDE <p>Arizona no longer requires dental assistants to take the Arizona Clinical Radiography Reference Exam as a requirement for holding a Restorative Certificate. Dental Assistants who passed the exam prior to 10/1/2017 but have not passed the exam may not call DANB as a backup for their Restorative Procedures Certificate.</p> <p>The ADAN/DANB Alliance has a list of 70 job functions which were developed through a process of dental assisting core competencies. Functions in this state that apply to the national DANB ADAA Core Competencies are indicated by the right arrow in the table. Functions in this state that do not apply to the national DANB ADAA Core Competencies are indicated by the left arrow in the table.</p> <p>These state templates reflect the current state of the ADAN/DANB Alliance to support an uniform national model for the set of dental assisting tasks, levels and requirements, which will help to create a more cohesive model for dental assistants.</p>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Restography Procedures</p> <p>Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in AZ</p> <p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46. Taking final impressions for any advancing orthodontic appliances, fixed or removable prosthesis. 51. Introral carriage of dental radiograph or prosthesis. A procedure which by its use requires the use of a dental radiograph, or certified radiologist can perform. Final job negotiations. Activating orthodontic appliances. An irreversible procedure. <p>* Under a new Arizona law passed in the 2019 legislative session, a dental assistant who has met the requirements for an Expanded Function Dental Assistant listed in the dental practice act may perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations.</p>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>



Arizona		State approved 2/19	
Job Title Assigned by State (AZ)	Allowable Functions	Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)	Dental Assistant
	<p>If functions with numbers which correspond to Core Competency designations. Functions with numbers are in the state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB research.</p> <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Apply fluoride varnish 40. Apply sealants Final job negotiations Final impressions under the direction of a licensed dentist following a consultation conducted through telephonic means <p>Level of Supervision Not Specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12, 23, 51, 70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and contouring of unattached crowns, inlays or veneers. Do not work by a licensed dentist; the restorative materials used must be determined by the dentist. <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Perform coronal polishing procedures. <p>Under Direct Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Remove sutures 23. Apply ligatures 27, 31, 35, and remove dental dams and matrix bands 42. Remove partial denture clasps with hand instruments 47, 52. Fabricate and place interim dentures with temporary cement 48. Perform radiograph control and receive radiographs with hand instruments 50. Observe a patient during tissue study and prepare impressions as instructed by the dentist 51. Remove excess cement from trays, crowns, bridges, and orthodontics 52. Remove partial denture clasps with hand instruments 53. Prepare a patient for retentive study and complete impressions with hand instruments 54. Place dental material into a patient's mouth in response to a patient's dentist's instruction 55. Clean the supragingival surface of the teeth in preparation for the placement of veneers, crowns, dental vene applications 56. Acid etch procedures 57. Removal of dentures and packs <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24. Calibrate and record impression 25. Collect and record information pertaining to existing dental condition 26. Collect and record information pertaining to existing dental condition 27. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 28. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 29. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 30. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 31. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 32. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 33. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 34. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 35. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 36. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 37. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 38. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 39. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 40. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 41. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 42. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 43. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 44. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 45. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 46. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 47. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 48. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 49. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 50. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 51. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 52. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 53. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 54. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 55. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 56. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 57. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 58. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 59. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 60. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 61. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 62. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 63. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 64. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 65. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 66. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 67. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 68. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 69. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 70. Take an indirect patient's oral impressions 	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>

Compare your state's job designations to those used as standardized job titles in the DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study.

If your state's dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted below the chart. See Appendix B for more information about supervision.

These data are presented for informational purposes only and are not intended as a legal opinion regarding dental practice in any state. DANB confers with each state's dental board at least annually regarding the accuracy and currency of this information. To verify, or if you have any questions, please contact your state's dental board.

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Education/Training/ Credential Required	Job Title According to State of CO	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in CO
<p><i>Some dental assistants in the state of Colorado may choose to complete an Expanded Duties Dental Assistant (EDDA) educational program. The EDDA designation is not recognized by the Colorado Dental Board and does not qualify a dental assistant to perform expanded duties in the state.</i></p> <hr/> <p>A dental assistant in the state of Colorado may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state dental practice act (see opposite page) under the supervision of a licensed dentist.</p> <p>There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the supervising dentist to ensure that dental personnel who administer and/or monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation are appropriately trained. Dental assistants who administer and/or monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation must successfully complete current Basic Life Support (BLS) training.</p> <p>Dental assistants who render patient care services in a dental setting where local anesthesia, analgesia (including nitrous oxide), minimal sedation, moderate sedation, deep sedation or general anesthesia are being administered, shall have successfully completed and shall maintain continuous certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) training for healthcare providers recognized by the American Heart Association, the American Safety and Health Institute, or the American Red Cross.</p>	<p><i>Expanded Duties Dental Assistant (EDDA)</i></p> <hr/> <p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p> <hr/> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Colorado, a dental assistant <i>must</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be at least 18 years of age <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Successfully complete minimum safety, education and training for operating machine sources of ionizing radiation and administering such radiation to patients. Approved education or training includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The completion of 5 hours of practical or clinical experience and 3.5 hours of lecture meeting specific Colorado content requirements for a total of 8.5 hours from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education, the Private Occupational School Division (or the equivalent in any other state) OR (b) Education and training may be provided on-the-job by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist, provided that the educational module used is approved by the Colorado Dental Board OR (c) Successful completion of the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam or the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam <p> The ADAA/DANB Alliance developed a listing of standardized job titles (left) based on its national Core Competencies Study conducted from 2002-2005.</p> <p>The same study utilized a list of 70 job functions which were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>Functions in this state that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are numbered to the right, using language directly from this state's dental practice act. (The numbers correspond to the study's task numbering system.) </p> <p>Functions listed with bullets are part of this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>These state templates reflect the work done by the ADAA/ DANB Alliance to support a uniform national model for one set of dental assisting tasks, levels and requirements, which will serve as a viable career ladder for dental assistants.</p> </div>	<p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <p>20. Scaling (supra- and sub-gingival), as it pertains to the practice of dental hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis • Treatment planning • Prescription of therapeutic measures • Any procedure that contributes to or results in an irremediable alteration of the oral anatomy • Administration of local anesthesia • Root planing • Soft tissue curettage • Periodontal probing • Placement of local therapeutic agents • Use protective stabilization • Application of silver diamine fluoride <p>Limited prescriptive authority for local therapeutic agents may not be delegated or assigned to a dental assistant.</p>

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Job Title According to State of CO	Allowable Functions (Functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations; functions with bullets are in this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB research)
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Expanded Duties Dental Assistant (EDDA)

The Colorado state dental practice law does not recognize the EDDA designation or permit assistants who hold it to perform a specific list of expanded functions.

Under Direct Supervision*

- 59. Monitor the use of nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious analgesia (see requirements on previous page)
 - Assist the dentist in using protective stabilization as necessary

A dental assistant may perform intraoral and extraoral tasks and procedures necessary for the fabrication of a complete or partial denture under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. These tasks and procedures shall include the following:

- 44, 46. Making of preliminary and final impressions
 - Jaw relation records and determination of vertical dimensions
 - Tooth selection
 - A preliminary try-in of the wax-up trial denture prior to and subject to a try-in and approval in writing of the wax-up trial denture by the licensed dentist
 - Denture adjustments that involve the periphery, occlusal, or tissue-bearing surfaces of the denture prior to the final examination of the denture

Dental Assistant

Under Indirect Supervision*

- 1-2. Gathering and assembling information including, but not limited to, fact-finding and patient history, oral inspection, and dental and periodontal charting
- 9. Smoothing and polishing natural and restored tooth surfaces
- 18. Provision of preventive measures including the application of fluorides and other recognized topical agents for the prevention of oral disease
- 56. Administering topical anesthetic to a patient in the course of providing dental care
 - Repairing and relining of dentures pursuant to a dental laboratory work order signed by a licensed dentist
 - Any other task or procedure that does not require the professional skill of a licensed dentist

***Direct Supervision:** Supervision of those tasks or procedures that do not require the presence of the dentist in the room where performed but require the dentist's presence on the premises and availability for prompt consultation and treatment
Indirect Supervision: Supervision of those tasks or procedures that do not require the presence of the dentist in the office or on the premises at the time such tasks or procedures are being performed, but do require that the tasks be performed with the prior knowledge and consent of the dentist.

Appendix A: Numbering System for Dental Assisting Functions

The following list of 70 dental assisting tasks was developed by the ADAA/DANB Alliance as part of a study of dental assisting core competencies conducted between 2002 and 2005. These selected tasks were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.

The **numbered functions** listed in the preceding state charts correspond to functions that were included in the DANB/ADAA core competencies study and use language directly from the state's dental practice act. The numbers are provided to facilitate comparison between and among states. Functions listed with **bullets** in the preceding charts are part of the state's practice act but are not specific matches to the functions that were included in the 2002-2005 study.

1. Perform mouth mirror inspection of the oral cavity
2. Chart existing restorations or conditions
3. Phone in prescriptions at the direction of the dentist
4. Receive and prepare patients for treatment, including seating, positioning chair, and placing napkin
5. Complete laboratory authorization forms
6. Place and remove retraction cord
7. Perform routine maintenance of dental equipment
8. Monitor and respond to post-surgical bleeding
9. Perform coronal polishing procedures
10. Apply effective communication techniques with a variety of patients
11. Transfer dental instruments
12. Place amalgam for condensation by the dentist
13. Remove sutures
14. Dry canals
15. Tie in archwires
16. Demonstrate knowledge of ethics/jurisprudence/patient confidentiality
17. Identify features of rotary instruments
18. Apply topical fluoride
19. Select and manipulate gypsums and waxes
20. Perform supragingival scaling
21. Mix dental materials
22. Expose radiographs
23. Evaluate radiographs for diagnostic quality
24. Provide patient preventive education and oral hygiene instruction
25. Perform sterilization and disinfection procedures
26. Provide pre- and post-operative instructions
27. Place and remove dental dam
28. Pour, trim, and evaluate the quality of diagnostic casts
29. Size and place orthodontic bands and brackets
30. Using the concepts of four-handed dentistry, assist with basic restorative procedures, including prosthodontics and restorative dentistry
31. Identify intraoral anatomy
32. Demonstrate understanding of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
33. Place, cure and finish composite resin restorations
34. Place liners and bases
35. Place periodontal dressings
36. Demonstrate understanding of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard
37. Take and record vital signs
38. Monitor vital signs
39. Clean and polish removable appliances and prostheses
40. Apply pit and fissure sealants
41. Prepare procedural trays/armamentaria set-ups
42. Place orthodontic separators
43. Size and fit stainless steel crowns
44. Take preliminary impressions
45. Place and remove matrix bands
46. Take final impressions
47. Fabricate and place temporary crowns
48. Maintain field of operation during dental procedures through the use of retraction, suction, irrigation, drying, placing and removing cotton rolls, etc.
49. Perform vitality tests
50. Place temporary fillings
51. Carve amalgams
52. Process dental radiographs
53. Mount and label dental radiographs
54. Remove temporary crowns and cements
55. Remove temporary fillings
56. Apply topical anesthetic to the injection site
57. Demonstrate understanding of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines
58. Using the concepts of four-handed dentistry, assist with basic intraoral surgical procedures, including extractions, periodontics, endodontics, and implants
59. Monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia
60. Maintain emergency kit
61. Remove permanent cement from supragingival surfaces
62. Remove periodontal dressings
63. Place post-extraction dressings
64. Fabricate custom trays, to include impression and bleaching trays, and athletic mouthguards
65. Recognize basic medical emergencies
66. Recognize basic dental emergencies
67. Respond to basic medical emergencies
68. Respond to basic dental emergencies
69. Remove post-extraction dressings
70. Place stainless steel crown

Appendix B: Levels of Supervision

An important consideration in the discussion of the delegation of tasks to dental assistants is that of supervision of dental assistants by their dentist-employers. The American Dental Association (ADA) has identified five levels of supervision for dental auxiliaries, including dental assistants, which it defines in its “Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel,” (2010: 505) which is part of its *Current Policies*, last updated in 2018. Note that “allied dental personnel” refers to dental assistants, dental hygienists, community dental health coordinators and dental laboratory technicians.

The five levels of supervision defined by the ADA are as follows:

Personal supervision: A type of supervision in which the dentist is personally operating on a patient and authorizes the allied dental personnel to aid treatment by concurrently performing a supportive procedure.

Direct supervision: A type of supervision in which a dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses and treatment plans the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedures and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the allied dental personnel and evaluates their performance before dismissal of the patient.

Indirect supervision: A type of supervision in which a dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, has personally diagnosed and treatment planned the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedures, and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the allied dental personnel, and will evaluate the performance of the allied dental personnel.

General supervision: A type of supervision in which a dentist is not required to be in the dental office or treatment facility when procedures are provided, but has personally diagnosed and treatment planned the condition to be treated, has personally authorized the procedures, and will evaluate the performance of the allied dental personnel.

Public Health Supervision: A type of supervision in which a licensed dental hygienist may provide dental hygiene services, as specified by state law or regulations, when such services are provided as part of an organized community program in various public health settings, as designated by state law, and with general oversight of such programs by a licensed dentist designated by the state.

Furthermore, the ADA’s “Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel” stipulates that intraoral expanded functions should be performed by allied dental personnel “under the supervision of a dentist.”

Because the study of dental assisting core competencies undertaken by the ADA/DANB Alliance did not address the question of supervision, the ADA/DANB Alliance does not make any recommendations as to the levels of supervision that should be necessary for the delegation of the tasks included in the study to dental assistants. However, the ADA/DANB Alliance believes it is important to call attention to the fact that, while the ADA has defined supervision levels in the aforementioned policy statement, which governs the ADA’s own activities and the activities of its members, these definitions have not been uniformly adopted by the dental boards of every U.S. state or district.

For the purposes of the attached charts, if a state’s dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted in the footer of the second page of the state chart.



Measuring Dental Assisting Excellence®

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