



2019 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Iowa



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 a dental office, 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 right) Hold the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements below) and the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the right) Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam (see requirements below) and the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the right) Be currently certified in another U.S. state as a dental assistant with successful completion of written and clinical dental radiography (ADR) Be currently certified in another U.S. state as a dental assistant with successful completion of written and clinical dental radiography (ADR) Be currently certified in another U.S. state as a dental assistant with successful completion of written and clinical dental radiography (ADR) Be currently certified in another U.S. state as a dental assistant with successful completion of written and clinical dental radiography (ADR) 	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>
<p>To perform general polishing procedures in a dental office, a dental assistant must hold an AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass DANB's "General Polishing" (GP) exam (see requirements below) and the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the right) Pass DANB's "General Polishing" (GP) exam (see requirements below) and the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the right) Pass DANB's "General Polishing" (GP) exam (see requirements below) and the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the right) Pass DANB's "General Polishing" (GP) exam (see requirements below) and the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the right) 	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>

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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 IA	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <u>NOT</u> Permitted by Dental Assistants in IA
<p>In order to work as a dental assistant in Iowa, an individual must be 17 years of age or older, be a high school graduate or equivalent, and be registered with the Iowa Dental Board and have received a Certificate of Registration.</p>				
<p>To qualify as a Certified Level 2 Provider, a Registered Dental Assistant must: become a Certified Level 1 provider AND pass a Board-approved entrance examination prior to beginning training as a Certified Level 2 provider AND complete Board-approved training in all Level 2 functions offered through the University of Iowa College of Dentistry or a program accredited by CODA.</p>	Certified Level 2 Provider		<p>To expose radiographs in Iowa, a dental assistant must hold a current registration certificate and active radiography qualification issued by the Iowa Dental Board (IDB) and a dentist must provide general supervision. To earn dental radiography qualification, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be a Dental Assistant Trainee or Registered Dental Assistant with an active registration status OR ■ Be a graduate of an accredited dental assisting program OR ■ Be a nurse who holds an active Iowa nursing license 	<p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <p>20. Removal of any plaque, stain, or hard natural or synthetic material except by toothbrush, floss or rubber cup coronal polish, or removal of any calculus</p> <p>40. Placement of sealants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosis, examination, treatment planning, or prescription, including prescription for drugs and medicaments or authorization for restorative, prosthodontic or orthodontic appliances • Surgical procedures on hard and soft tissues within the oral cavity and any other intraoral procedure that contributes to or results in an irreversible alteration to the oral anatomy • Administration of local anesthesia • Procedures that require the professional judgement and skill of a dentist
<p>Certified Level 1 Provider To qualify as a Certified Level 1 provider, a Registered Dental Assistant must complete Board-approved training in all Level 1 expanded functions offered through a CODA-accredited program or other Board-approved program, which may include on-the-job training offered by an Iowa licensed dentist.</p>	Certified Level 1 Provider	Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)	<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide proof of successful completion of an Iowa Board-approved course of study in dental radiography within the two years prior to application 	
<p>Basic Expanded Function Provider A Registered Dental Assistant may qualify to perform select Level 1 expanded function procedures by completing Board-approved training offered through a CODA-accredited program or another Board-approved program, which may include on-the-job training offered by an Iowa licensed dentist. <i>A dentist may delegate to an RDA only those Level 1 procedures for which the assistant has received the required expanded function training.</i></p>	Basic Expanded Function Provider		<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide proof that he or she successfully completed an Iowa Board-approved exam in the area of dental radiography (the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety [RHS] exam meets this requirement if taken after January 1, 1986) 	
<p>To qualify for expanded function training, a dental assistant must be a graduate of a CODA-accredited dental assisting program, OR hold current DANB certification, OR have a minimum of one year of clinical practice as a registered dental assistant, OR have a minimum of one year of clinical practice as a dental assistant in a state that does not require registration.</p>			<p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Apply to the IDB for Qualification in Dental Radiography <p><i>Note: A dental assistant trainee must be 18 years of age to perform dental radiography.</i></p>	
<p>To qualify as a Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) in Iowa, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Work in a dental office for six months as a Dental Assistant Trainee (see requirements below) OR ■ If licensed out of state, have at least six months prior dental assisting experience under a licensed dentist within the past two years OR ■ Graduate from an accredited dental assisting program approved by the Iowa Dental Board (IDB) AND ■ Successfully complete an IDB-approved course of study in the areas of infection control, hazardous materials, and jurisprudence; the course of study may be taken at a board-approved, accredited dental assisting program or on the job using a curriculum approved by IDB AND ■ Pass required exams in infection control/hazardous materials and jurisprudence; exams approved by the IDB are those administered by the IDB or the IDB's approved testing centers, or the DANB ICE exam (if taken after June 1, 1991); the IDB may require applicants with exam scores older than five years to retest AND ■ Hold a valid CPR card AND ■ Apply to IDB for registration as a dental assistant 	Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)	DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)	<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>	
<p>To qualify as a Dental Assistant Trainee in Iowa, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Graduate from high school or equivalent. AND Be 17 years of age or older. OR ■ Be enrolled in a cooperative education or work-study program through an Iowa high school AND ■ Apply to the Iowa Dental Board and receive a certificate of dental assistant trainee status <p>A dental assistant trainee must have certification of Dental Assistant Trainee status issued prior to beginning work as a dental assistant trainee.</p>	Dental Assistant Trainee	Dental Assistant Entry Level Dental Assistant	<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>	

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Job Title According to State of IA	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)													
Certified Level 2 Provider	<p>Under Direct Supervision* A Registered Dental Assistant who has qualified as a Certified Level 2 provider (see requirements on previous page) may perform Level 2 expanded functions.</p> <p><i>Level 2 Expanded Functions:</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>12, 51. Placement and shaping of amalgam following preparation of a tooth by a dentist</td> <td>33. Placement and shaping of composite following preparation of a tooth by a dentist</td> <td rowspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking records for the fabrication of dentures and partial dentures • Tissue conditioning (soft reline only) </td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>70. Forming and placement of stainless steel crowns</td> </tr> </table>	12, 51. Placement and shaping of amalgam following preparation of a tooth by a dentist	33. Placement and shaping of composite following preparation of a tooth by a dentist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking records for the fabrication of dentures and partial dentures • Tissue conditioning (soft reline only) 		70. Forming and placement of stainless steel crowns								
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Certified Level 1 Provider	<p>Under Direct Supervision* Certified Level 1 are registered dental assistants who have completed training in all Level 1 procedures.</p> <p><i>Level 1 Expanded Functions:</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>2. Preliminary charting of existing dental restorations and teeth</td> <td>35. Placement of periodontal dressings</td> <td rowspan="2">63. Placement and removal of dry socket medication</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Placement and removal of gingival retraction</td> <td>46. Taking final impressions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>34. Applying cavity liners and bases, desensitizing agents, and bonding systems</td> <td>47, 50. Fabrication and removal of provisional restorations</td> <td rowspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking occlusal registrations • Removal of adhesives (hand instrumentation only) </td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>49. Testing pulp vitality</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>59. Monitoring of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	2. Preliminary charting of existing dental restorations and teeth	35. Placement of periodontal dressings	63. Placement and removal of dry socket medication	6. Placement and removal of gingival retraction	46. Taking final impressions	34. Applying cavity liners and bases, desensitizing agents, and bonding systems	47, 50. Fabrication and removal of provisional restorations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking occlusal registrations • Removal of adhesives (hand instrumentation only) 		49. Testing pulp vitality		59. Monitoring of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia	
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Basic Expanded Function Provider	<p>Under Direct Supervision* Registered Dental Assistants may perform select Level 1 procedures permitted for Basic Expanded Function Providers if they have met the education and training requirements for those procedures. A dentist may delegate to a Registered Dental Assistant only those Level 1 procedures for which the assistant has received the required expanded function training.</p> <p><i>Level 1 Expanded Functions:</i></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>2. Preliminary charting of existing dental restorations and teeth</td> <td>35. Placement of periodontal dressings</td> <td rowspan="2">63. Placement and removal of dry socket medication</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Placement and removal of gingival retraction</td> <td>46. Taking final impressions</td> </tr> <tr> <td>34. Applying cavity liners and bases, desensitizing agents, and bonding systems</td> <td>47, 50. Fabrication and removal of provisional restorations</td> <td rowspan="2"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking occlusal registrations • Removal of adhesives (hand instrumentation only) </td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>49. Testing pulp vitality</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>59. Monitoring of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	2. Preliminary charting of existing dental restorations and teeth	35. Placement of periodontal dressings	63. Placement and removal of dry socket medication	6. Placement and removal of gingival retraction	46. Taking final impressions	34. Applying cavity liners and bases, desensitizing agents, and bonding systems	47, 50. Fabrication and removal of provisional restorations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking occlusal registrations • Removal of adhesives (hand instrumentation only) 		49. Testing pulp vitality		59. Monitoring of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia	
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Dental Assistant Trainee	<p>Under Personal Supervision* All Dental Assistant Trainees who are engaging in on-the-job training to meet the requirements for registration and are learning the necessary skills are considered to be under the personal supervision of a licensed dentist, licensed dental hygienist or registered dental assistant.</p> <p>No allowable functions are specified in the state practice act, with the exception of dental radiography (see "Radiography Requirements" on previous page).</p> <p>DANB's Note on Allowable Dental Assisting Functions In the state of Iowa, all dental assistants may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform infection control and occupational safety procedures • Perform other duties not specified by this state's dental practice act <p>At this time, DANB cannot list all allowable dental assisting functions for each state because some states' dental practice acts outline very specific allowable functions, while others outline only prohibited functions and some contain minimal or no regulation of dental assisting duties.</p>													

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***Direct Supervision:** The dentist is present in the treatment facility, but it is not required that the dentist be physically present in the treatment room while the dental assistant is performing acts assigned by the dentist.

General Supervision: The dentist has examined the patient and has delegated services to be provided by a registered dental assistant, which are limited to extraoral duties, dental radiography, intraoral suctioning, and use of a curing light and intraoral camera. The dentist need not be present in the facility while these services are being provided.

Personal Supervision: For intraoral procedures, the dentist is physically present in the treatment room to oversee and direct all intraoral or chairside services of the dental assistant trainee; for extraoral procedures, a licensee or registrant is physically present in the treatment room to oversee and direct all extraoral services of the dental assistant trainee.

Public Health Supervision: (1) The dentist authorizes and delegates the services provided by a registered dental assistant to a patient in a public health setting, with the exception that services may be rendered without the patient's first being examined by a licensed dentist; (2) The dentist is not required to provide future dental treatment to patients served under public health supervision; (3) The dentist and the registered dental assistant have entered into a written supervision agreement that details the responsibilities of each licensee/registrant, as specified in subrule 20.16(2); and (4) The registered dental assistant has an active Iowa registration and a minimum of one year of clinical practice experience.

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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