



2018 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Nebraska



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 1/6/17	
Education/Training/Credential Required	Job Title Assigned by State (A-Z)	Proposed Standard Job Title	Regulatory Requirements
<p>To perform specified restorative functions in Arizona under the supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona Expanded Function Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative Procedure Examination (RPE) and the Arizona Radiographic Proficiency Examination (ARPE). Successfully complete an EFDA training course approved by the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) or a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited program. Hold DANB's AAMP, TAMP and RAMP. Under the supervision of a licensed dentist, perform restorative procedures equivalent to the ASBDE (RPE) and ARPE and have 20 direct restorations and three indirect restorations and three preparation of the tooth by a licensed dentist and document these procedures on a Licensed Dental Employment form. Hold the DANB for Arizona Restorative Certificate. <p>To perform coronal polishing procedures in Arizona under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold the Arizona Coronal Polishing Certificate.</p> <p>To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Dental Council of Public Health (DCPH) Exam for Arizona Restorative Certificate. Hold the Arizona Coronal Polishing Certificate (CPC) issued by the ASBDE. Successfully complete the DANB CE course in Restorative Clinical Skills Alliance to DANB. <p>A dental assistant in Arizona who performs these restorative procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist must meet the educational requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p>	<p>Dental Assistant (General)</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>In order to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in a dental practice in Arizona, a dental assistant must have a certificate in current approved certificate in radiology.</p> <p>To obtain a certificate, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the national DANB Radiation Safety and (RHS) exam. Hold the Arizona Radiographic Proficiency Certificate, issued by the ASBDE. Be currently certified in another radiologic technology program (ARRT, ACR, etc.) <p>Notes: A dental assistant who has not passed the dental radiography exam may not perform radiographic procedures in Arizona. A dental assistant who has not passed the dental radiography exam may not perform radiographic procedures in Arizona. A dental assistant who has not passed the dental radiography exam may not perform radiographic procedures in Arizona.</p> <p>The ADA/DANB Alliance on the Dental Care Workforce Study conducted from 2002-2003.</p> <p>The same study offered a list of 70 core competencies for dental assistants that would encompass a range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>Functions in this state that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are supported by the right, state dental practice act. (The numbers correspond to the state's task numbering system).</p> <p>Functions listed with italics are part of the state's practice act but are not specifically mentioned in DANB/ADAA.</p> <p>These states implement various procedures to support a uniform dental practice act. Some dental assisting tasks, roles and requirements, which will appear in a state's dental practice act, are not specifically mentioned in the DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study.</p>

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

Arizona		State approved 1/6/17	
Job Title Assigned by State (A-Z)	Education/Training/Credential Required	Proposed Standard Job Title	Allowable Functions
			<p>If functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations, functions with italics are in the state's practice act but are not specifically mentioned in DANB research.</p> <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Apply fluoride varnish 40. Apply sealants * Place interim restorations * Perform restorative procedures under the direction of a licensed dentist following a consultation conducted through radiology. <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 amalgamated crowns, inlays or veneers; do not use a finished dental restorative material used will be determined by the dentist. <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3: Perform coronal polishing procedures. <p>Under Direct Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Remove sulcus 23. Apply topical fluoride 24. Apply topical fluoride and mouth rinses 40. Apply sealants 47. DR: Remove and prepare crown 48. DR: Remove and prepare crown and interim restorations with hand instruments 49. DR: Remove and prepare crown and interim restorations with hand instruments 51. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 52. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 53. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 54. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 55. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 56. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 57. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 58. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 59. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 60. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 61. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 62. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 63. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 64. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 65. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 66. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 67. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 68. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 69. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray 70. Chlorine: Perform dental x-ray * Check the supragingival surface of the tooth preparation for the placement of veneers, crowns, inlays and onlays * The placement of veneers, crowns, inlays and onlays * Check each procedure * Removal of temporary packs <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2: Collect and record information pertaining to dental conditions 3: Collect and record information pertaining to existing restorations 4: Take or instruct patients in oral hygiene procedures 5: Perform restorative procedures, delivery concerning the design and preparation, and provide oral and dental care and/or refer to a specific dental treatment

The numbers next to each task correspond to the 70 numbered tasks that were identified and used in the DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study. Tasks that are not numbered do not directly match one of the 70 tasks, yet are identified by the state in the practice act. A full list of those tasks follow your state's chart.

See Appendix A for more information about the task numbering system.

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 NE	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <u>NOT</u> Permitted by Dental Assistants in NE
<p>To qualify as an Expanded Function Dental Assistant** in Nebraska, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a valid, current license as an LDA AND Complete a minimum of 1,500 hours of work experience as an LDA AND Complete courses and exams in expanded function dental assisting as approved by the Board AND Pass a jurisprudence exam approved by the Board AND Apply to the Dept. of Health and Human Services for the applicable EFDA permit 	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)**</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Nebraska, a dental assistant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete a two-day course approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure OR Pass the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam OR Successfully complete a dental assisting course from a CODA-approved technical program or community college which provides training in dental radiography as part of its curriculum 	<p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12, 33, 51. Placing or contouring of a final restoration* 20. Scaling of teeth, including subgingival regions and root planing with hand and ultrasonic instruments Diagnosis and treatment planning Surgery on hard or soft tissue Administering of local or general anesthetics Any other irreversible dental procedure or procedures which require the professional judgment and skill of a licensed dentist Any intraoral procedure which would lead to the fabrication of any prosthesis* Chemical curettage
<p>To qualify as a Licensed Dental Assistant** in Nebraska, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a high school diploma AND Graduate from a CODA-accredited dental assisting program OR Complete one year (1,500 hours minimum) of dental assisting experience in the five years preceding application AND Pass DANB's CDA Certification or an equivalent exam approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry AND Pass a jurisprudence exam approved by the Board AND Apply to the Dept. of Health and Human Services for an LDA license 	<p>Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA)**</p>	<p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p>	<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><i>*Please note: The new 2017 law allows some levels of dental assistant to perform these functions, but the Nebraska Board of Dentistry administrative rules have not yet been updated to reflect the scope of practice authorized under the new law.</i></p>
<p>To perform selected functions, an LDA must complete education and testing approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry and earn a permit in each function (see "Allowable Functions" on opposite page).</p>	<p>Dental Assistant qualified in coronal polishing</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</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>To perform coronal polishing procedures under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist in Nebraska, a dental assistant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate from a CODA-accredited dental assisting program which includes a coronal polishing course OR Complete one year (1,500 hours minimum) of clinical work experience as a dental assistant and a Nebraska Board-approved course in polishing procedures 	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</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>A dental assistant in Nebraska may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state dental practice act (see opposite page) under the supervision of a licensed dentist. There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p> <p>Dental assistants who assist in the administration of general anesthesia, deep sedation, moderate sedation or minimal sedation must be currently certified in basic life support skills (BLS) or the equivalent.</p> <p>Dental assistants with current and valid certification for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry may monitor nitrous oxide under indirect supervision of a licensed dentist.</p> <p>Note: All dental assistants must be at least 18 years of age.</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<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 NE	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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****The Nebraska Legislature passed a law in the 2017 legislative session authorizing the creation of these categories of dental assistant; the Nebraska Board of Dentistry is in the process of developing rules to regulate these categories.**

Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)**

Under Indirect Supervision*

- 12, 33, 51. Place restorative level one simple restorations (one surface)
- 12, 33, 51. Place restorative level two complex restorations (multiple surfaces)

Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA)**

Under Indirect Supervision*

- 46. Take dental impressions for fixed prostheses (*with education, exam and permit in the function*)
- 46. Take dental impressions and make minor adjustments for removable prostheses (*with education, exam and permit in the function*)
- 59. Monitor and administer nitrous oxide analgesia (*with education, exam and permit in the function*)
- 70. Cement prefabricated fixed prostheses on primary teeth (*with education, exam and permit in the function*)
- All procedures authorized for a dental assistant

Dental Assistant *qualified in coronal polishing*

Under Indirect Supervision*

- 9. Perform coronal polishing procedures

Dental Assistant

Under Indirect Supervision*

- 56. Place topical local anesthesia
- 59. Monitor nitrous oxide (*see requirements on previous page*)
- A licensed dentist may delegate to dental assistants only those procedures for which the dentist exercises supervision and assumes full responsibility

Under General Supervision*

- 22..Take X-rays (see "Radiography Requirements" on previous page)

DANB's Note on Allowable Dental Assisting Functions

In Nebraska, all dental assistants may:

- Perform infection control and occupational safety procedures
- Perform other duties not specified by this state's dental practice act

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.

***Indirect Supervision:** The licensed dentist authorizes the procedure to be performed by a dental auxiliary and is physically present on the premises when such procedure is being performed.
General Supervision: The directing of activities of a dental auxiliary by a licensed dentist, not construed to require the physical presence of the supervisor when directing such activities

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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 2015. 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 ADAA/DANB Alliance did not address the question of supervision, the ADAA/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 ADAA/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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