



2019 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Rhode Island



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		Rhode Island	
Education/Training/Credential Required	Job Title Assigned by State (AZ)	Education/Training/Credential Required	Job Title Assigned by State (RI)
<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 Certificate (see requirements below) and the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the report) Pass the AZ Core Competency Certificate (see requirements in the report) Pass the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the report) Pass the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the report) 	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>In order to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures, the dental assistant must hold the dental radiography certificate of a licensed dentist or a dental radiography certificate of a licensed dental radiographer. In Rhode Island, a dental assistant must hold a dental radiography certificate issued by the Rhode Island Department of Health. To obtain a certificate, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam Pass the Rhode Island Dental Radiography Certificate, issued by the RI Department of Health 	<p>Dental Radiographer</p>
<p>To perform general polishing procedures in a dental office, a dental assistant must hold an AZ Core Competency Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass DANB's "General Polishing" (GP) exam (see requirements in the report) Pass the AZ Core Competency Certificate (see requirements in the report) Pass the AZ Core Competency Certificate (see requirements in the report) 	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>The ADA/DANB/ADA/ADA Core Competencies (see requirements in the report) are the minimum standard for dental assisting tasks. In Rhode Island, a dental assistant must hold a dental radiography certificate issued by the Rhode Island Department of Health. To obtain a certificate, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam Pass the Rhode Island Dental Radiography Certificate, issued by the RI Department of Health 	<p>Dental Assistant</p>

Arizona	
Job Title Assigned by State (AZ)	Allowable Functions
Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)	<p>Functions with numbers next to specific 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> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Apply fluoride varnish Apply sealants Place interim restorations Insertion under the direction of a licensed dentist following a consultation conducted through telemedicine <p>Level of Supervision Not Specified</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23, 24, 51, 70 Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and contouring of amalgamated restorations in the presence of the dentist by a licensed dentist. The restorative materials used must be determined by the dentist.
Dental Assistant qualified in performing polishing procedures	<p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Perform general polishing procedures
Dental Assistant	<p>Under Direct Supervision*</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Remove excess cement from trays, crowns, bridges, and orthodontics Apply dental wax Apply wax and remove dental dies and metal facings Remove pontical of denture with metal restorations Remove pontical of denture with metal restorations Prepare a pattern for retentive resin and complete denture construction with metal restorations Apply wax procedures Place dental material into a patient's mouth in response to a patient's dentist's instruction <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23, 24, 51, 70 Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and contouring of amalgamated restorations in the presence of the dentist by a licensed dentist. The restorative materials used must be determined by the dentist. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

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.

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 RI	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in RI
<p>To perform expanded functions in Rhode Island under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must be a DANB-Certified assistant, holding one of the following DANB national certifications: Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA), Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistants (CPFDA), Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistants (CRFDA), Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (COMSA) or Certified Dental Practice Management Administrator (CDPMA).</p> <p>Note: Individuals who have passed a DANB certification exam but have not renewed certification are no longer DANB-Certified assistants.</p> <p>In Rhode Island, DANB-Certified assistants may perform the expanded functions listed on the opposite page provided they have graduated from a dental assisting education program that incorporated academic training in these procedures or completed academic clinical training to clinical competence.</p>	<p>DANB-Certified Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Rhode Island, a dental assistant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a course in dental radiography from an educational institution with a CODA-accredited program 	<p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Exposure of radiographs without successful completion of required course in dental radiography (see the "Radiography Requirement" column to the left for requirements) 51. Condensing and carving restorative materials in teeth, except temporary restoratives 46. Taking conventional/physical impressions for models upon which full or partial dentures, or permanent crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays, posts and cores will be fabricated Diagnosis and treatment planning Surgical procedures on hard or soft tissue Prescribing medications Administering injectable anesthetics Administering general anesthesia/deep sedation, moderate sedation and/or minimal sedation, or nitrous oxide plus medication Administering inhalants or inhalation conscious sedation agents Adjusting occlusion of fixed and removable prosthodontic appliances Final cementation of permanent crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays, and posts and cores; and insertion of final prosthesis Placement of sutures Perform direct pulp capping procedures Orthodontic arch wire detailing with the exception of minor adjustments to eliminate pain or discomfort Flush root canal Temporary wire ligation Use of a rotary instrument in the oral cavity unless licensed or certified under the provisions of the Rhode Island Dental Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Dentists, Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants (See also §2.10.2(A)(2)(b) of the Regulations in DANB's 2019 <i>State Fact Booklet</i>.) Oral prophylaxis Any irreversible intraoral procedure Any procedure listed specifically for dental hygienists
<p>A dental assistant in Rhode Island may perform dental procedures under the supervision of a licensed dentist, as specified by the state dental practice act (see opposite page).</p> <p>All dental assistants practicing in a dental setting shall hold a current certificate of completion of an approved course in Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Healthcare Provider that includes a hands-on skill component and conforms to the current American Heart Association Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) offered by any accredited agency approved by the Board.</p> <p>Every dental assistant in Rhode Island must receive a minimum of one (1) hour per year of training in the CDC Infection Control Guidelines.</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</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>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>†DANB has not received confirmation that this Career Ladder Template has been reviewed and approved by the Rhode Island Board of Examiners Dentistry. All of the templates in this volume reflect DANB's interpretation of each state's dental practice act and administrative rules and regulations related to dental assisting. For authoritative information regarding requirements, please contact the relevant dental board. Specific contact information can be found in this DANB publication.</p>

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Job Title According to State of RI	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)
DANB- Certified Assistant	<p><u>Under Direct Supervision*</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Placing and/or removing retraction cord 9. Coronal polishing 18. Fluoride treatments 29. Placing and removing bonded orthodontic attachments and/or cementation or removal of orthodontic bands 40. Application of pit and fissure sealants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reversible intraoral procedures as delegated by the dentist • All duties designated to dental assistants, under the same levels of required supervision <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 20px auto; width: 80%;"> <p>Note: This state allows individuals certified as DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistants to perform a separate set of supportive functions related to administration of anesthesia. Please see the separate chart for DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant functions on the pages that follow.</p> </div>
Dental Assistant	<p><u>Under Direct Supervision*</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a final digital scan (with final inspection and approval of dentist) • Reversible intraoral procedures as delegated by the dentist <p><u>DANB's Note on Allowable Dental Assisting Functions</u></p> <p>In the state of Rhode Island, 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>

*Direct Supervision:

The dentist is in the dental office, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure(s)/duty(ies), remains in the dental office while the procedure(s)/duty(ies) are being performed, and examines the patient before his/her dismissal.

Education/Training/ Credential Required	Job Title According to State of RI	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <u>NOT</u> Permitted by DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistants in RI
<p>To perform specified maxillofacial surgery assisting functions, an assistant must be licensed by the Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry as a DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant. To qualify for licensure, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be of good moral character <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be eighteen (18) years or older <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Successfully complete an approved program for Dental Anesthesia Assistants National Certification Examination (DAANCE) accredited by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons or its designated agency; <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be certified as a dental anesthesia assistant by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete a Board of Examiners in Dentistry-approved advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) course and hold current certification <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Be in good standing in each state in which he/she holds a license <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Apply to the Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry for licensure <p>Note: The Rhode Island DAANCE-Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant application form (created December 1, 2017) is now available on the Rhode Island Department of Health Website (http://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=251) under the heading "Applications."</p>	<p>DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (COMSA) or Registered Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (ROMSA)</p> <hr/> <p>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>Entry Level Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Rhode Island, a dental assistant <u>must</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete a course in dental radiography from an educational institution with a CODA-accredited program <p>← The ADAA/DANB Alliance developed a listing of standardized job titles based on its national Core Competencies Study conducted from 2002-2005, for <u>general</u> chairside assistants only.</p> <p>If the ADAA/DANB Alliance were to attempt to replicate the general chairside assistant Core Competencies Study for anesthesia or maxillofacial surgery assistants, the templates would contain the proposed standardized job titles that appear at left.</p> <p>Some functions in the general chairside Core Competencies Study are also appropriate for these assistants. The 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>See "Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in RI" on p. 122 for a list of functions that may not be delegated to dental assistants.</p> <p><small>†DANB has not received confirmation that this Career Ladder Template has been reviewed and approved by the Rhode Island Board of Examiners Dentistry. All of the templates in this volume reflect DANB's interpretation of each state's dental practice act and administrative rules and regulations related to dental assisting. For authoritative information regarding requirements, please contact the relevant dental board. Specific contact information can be found in this DANB publication.</small></p>

Job Title
According to
State of RI

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)

DAANCE
Certified
Maxillofacial
Surgery
Assistant

Under Direct Visual Supervision*

- Follow instructions to prepare and assist in the administration of medications
- Adjust the rate of intravenous fluids infusion beyond a keep open rate
- Adjust an electronic device to provide medications, such as an infusion pump
- Assist with preparation/delivery/infusion/administration of emergency medications to a patient in order to assist the oral and maxillofacial surgeon in an emergency

Under Direct Supervision* by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon holding a valid general anesthesia/deep sedation permit

- Discontinue an intravenous line for a patient who has received intravenous medications, sedation, or general anesthesia
- Adjust the rate of intravenous fluids infusion only to maintain or keep the line patent or open
- Make medications readily available for review, inspection and use by the oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

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*Direct Supervision: The dentist is in the dental office, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure(s)/duty(ies), remains in the dental office while the procedure(s)/duty(ies) are being performed, and examines the patient before his/her dismissal.
Direct visual supervision: Supervision by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon (with a permit to administer deep sedation and general anesthesia) by verbal command and under direct line of sight.

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.



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Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB)

444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900, Chicago, IL 60611 • 1-800-367-3262 or 312-642-3368 • Fax: 312-642-8507
danbmail@danb.org • www.danb.org