

### 2019 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: California

**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.**

**Arizona**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Under General Supervision</th>
<th>Under Direct Supervision</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistant</td>
<td>24, 26. Train or instruct patients in oral hygiene procedures (EFDA)</td>
<td>2. Collect and record information about the patient's health and medical history (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18. Apply topical fluorides to reduce dental caries risk in patients who are at high risk (CDA)</td>
<td>60. Establish a patient treatment plan (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59. Observe a patient during nitrous oxide administration (CDA)</td>
<td>54, 55. Remove temporary cement and apply fiber posts (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
<td>40. Apply sealants (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12, 33, 51, 70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and contouring and finishing of indirect restorations with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
<td>47, 50. Fabricate and place interim restorations with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27, 45. Place and remove dental dams (CDA)</td>
<td>41. Apply rubber dam (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28. Disinfect and prepare instruments for use by a licensed dentist; the restorative procedures are performed under direct supervision of a licensed dentist (CDA)</td>
<td>42. Assist in the preparation and use of hand instruments (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30. Provide patient education about the care of the oral cavity (CDA)</td>
<td>43. Assist in the performance of procedures (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>31. Cleanse the supragingival surface of the oral cavity of any debris and plaque (CDA)</td>
<td>44. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is isolated (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>32. Apply topical fluoride varnish to all teeth of the oral cavity (CDA)</td>
<td>45. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>34, 35. Place and remove dental diaphragm (CDA)</td>
<td>46. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated under general supervision (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>36, 37. Apply topical fluoride varnish to all teeth of the oral cavity (CDA)</td>
<td>48. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the patient is not placed in a supine position (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38. Place and remove dental diaphragm (CDA)</td>
<td>49. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the patient is not placed in a supine position under general supervision (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated under direct supervision (CDA)</td>
<td>51. Perform placement of temporary crowns, bridges, and orthodontic appliances (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>40. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated under general supervision (CDA)</td>
<td>52. Perform placement of temporary crowns, bridges, and orthodontic appliances under general supervision (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>53. Perform placement of temporary crowns, bridges, and orthodontic appliances under direct supervision (CDA)</td>
<td>55. Remove temporary cement and apply fiber posts (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>56. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated under direct supervision (CDA)</td>
<td>57. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated under direct supervision under general supervision (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>58. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated under direct supervision under general supervision (CDA)</td>
<td>59. Observe a patient during nitrous oxide administration (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60. Establish a patient treatment plan (CDA)</td>
<td>61. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated under direct supervision under general supervision (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>61. Assist in the performance of procedures for which the tooth is not isolated under direct supervision under general supervision (CDA)</td>
<td>62. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
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<td>67. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
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<td>67. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
<td>68. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>68. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
<td>69. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>69. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
<td>70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and contouring and finishing of indirect restorations with hand instruments (CDA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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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To perform **expanded functions** under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist in California, a dental assistant must be licensed as a **Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF)**. To register as an RDAEF, one must:

- Hold a valid license as an RDA (see below)

**AND**
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved course for application of pit and fissure sealants

**AND**
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved extended functions educational program

**AND**
- Apply to the Dental Board of California for licensure as a Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions

**AND**
- Pass a written exam and a clinical or practical exam administered by the California Board.

To be licensed as a **Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)** in California, one must:

- Graduate from a California Board-approved RDA educational program

**OR**
- Complete 15 months of work experience as a dental assistant

**OR**
- Complete a combination of a non-approved educational program and work experience

**AND**
- Successfully complete California Board-approved courses in radiation safety and coronal polishing

**AND**
- Successfully complete a 2-hour Board-approved course in the California Dental Practice Act and an 8-hour course in infection control within 5 years prior to application for licensure

**AND**
- Successfully complete an AHA or ARC-approved course in Basic Life Support

**AND**
- Apply to the Dental Board of California for licensure as an RDA

**AND**
- Pass the state combined written RDA General and Law and Ethics exam* (See Note at right.)

An **unlicensed dental assistant** in California may perform basic supportive dental procedures under the supervision of a licensed dentist specified by the state dental practice act (see opposite page).

The employer dentist must ensure that all unlicensed dental assistants maintain BLS certification, and that all unlicensed dental assistants in continuous employment for 120 days or more have proof of completing all of the following within a year from date of employment:

- A California Board-approved course in the California Dental Practice Act

**AND**
- A California Board-approved course in infection control

**AND**
- An AHA or ARC-approved course in Basic Life Support which includes hands-on simulated clinical scenarios

**Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in CA**

The following functions are **not permitted** by a dental assistant, an orthodontic assistant or a dental sedation assistant:

33, 70. Placing, finishing, or removing permanent restorations

- **Diagnosis and comprehensive treatment planning**
- Surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissue including, but not limited to, the removal of teeth and the cutting and suturing of soft tissue
- Prescribing medication
- Starting or adjusting local or general anesthesia or oral or parenteral conscious sedation; except for the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, whether administered alone or in combination with each other and except as otherwise provided by law
- Supragingival and subgingival scaling
- Fitting and adjusting of correctional and prosthodontics appliances
- Irrigation and medication of canals, try-in cones, reaming, filing or filling of root canals
- Oral prophylaxis procedures

*Note: Prior to 2015, a practical exam was required for RDA licensure. The practical exam was suspended in 2015 and permanently discontinued in November 2017. Beginning in May 2018, the state written RDA exam and the state written exam in law and ethics, formerly separate exams, have been combined.

**Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)**

- Passed written exam
- Complete a 2-hour Board-approved course in the California Dental Practice Act and an 8-hour course in infection control

**DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA)** or **Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)**

- Passed written exam
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved course in the California Dental Practice Act and an 8-hour course in infection control

**Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)**

- Passed written exam and clinical or practical exam
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved course in the California Dental Practice Act and an 8-hour course in infection control

**Radiography Requirements**

A dental assistant in California **must** be state certified in radiography to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures.

To apply for state certification, a dental assistant must:

- Successfully complete a California Board-approved radiation safety course which includes theory and clinical application in radiographic technique

**OR**
- Have passed a radiation exam conducted by the California Board prior to Jan. 1, 1985

**AND**
- Submit a copy of the certificate of completion to the Dental Board of California

**Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in CA**

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.

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.)

Functions listed with bullets are part of this state’s practice act but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.

**Unlicensed Dental Assistant**

**Dental Assistant**

**Entry Level Dental Assistant**
Under Direct Supervision*  
1. Conduct preliminary evaluation of the patient’s oral health, including, but not limited to, charting, intraoral and extraoral evaluation of soft tissue, classifying occlusion, and myofunctional evaluation  
6. Cord retraction of gingivae for impression procedures  
12, 33, 51. Place, contour, finish, and adjust all direct restorations  
46. Take final impressions for permanent indirect restorations  
46. Take final impressions for tooth-borne removable prosthesis  
• Fit trial endodontic filling points  
• Form laboratory indirect inlays for endodontic post and core castings  
• Remove excess cement from subgingival tooth surfaces with hand instruments  
50. Place, adjust and finish direct provisional restorations  
61. Remove excess cement from surfaces of teeth with a hand instrument  
61. Remove excess cement with an ultrasonic scaler from supragingival surfaces of teeth undergoing endodontic treatment (under direct supervision; board-approved course required)  
63. Place post-extraction dressings after removal of teeth  
49. Test pulp vitality and record findings  

Under Direct or General Supervision*  
The supervising licensed dentist is responsible for determining the level of supervision.  
1. 2. Mouth-mirror inspection of oral cavity, including charting of obvious lesions, existing restorations, and missing teeth  
9. Coronal polishing  
14. Dry endodontically treated canals with paper absorbent points  
15. Place ligature ties and archwires  
18. Apply topical fluoride, when operating in a school-based setting or government run public health program  
22. Dry endodontically treated canals with paper absorbent points  
26. Formulate indirect patterns for endodontic post and core castings  
30. Place orthodontic separators  
35. Place peridontal dressings  
40. Apply pit and fissure sealants (board-approved course required)  
47, 54, 55. Fabricate, adjust, cement, and remove indirect provisional restorations, including stainless steel crowns when used as a provisional restoration  
49. Test pulp vitality and record findings  

Under Direct Supervision*  
13. Remove sutures after inspection of the site by the dentist  
18. Apply topical fluoride  
27. Place and remove rubber dams or isolation devices  
29. After adjustment by the dentist, examine and seal removable orthodontic appliances and deliver care instructions to the patient  
42. Place orthodontic separators  
44. Take intraoral impressions for all nonprosthodontic appliances  
45. Place, wedge and remove matrices for restorative procedures  
56. Apply non-aerosol and non-caustic topical agents  
59. Assist in the administration of nitrous oxide when used for analgesia or sedation. A dental assistant shall not start the administration of the gases and shall not adjust the flow of the gases unless instructed to do so by the supervising licensed dentist who shall be present at the patient’s chairside during the implementation of these instructions. This paragraph shall not be construed to prevent any person from taking appropriate action in the event of a medical emergency.  
62. Remove periodontal dressings  
69. Remove post-extraction dressings after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist  

Under General Supervision*  
18. Apply topical fluoride, when operating in a school-based setting or government public health program  
22. Operation of radiographic equipment (see “Radiography Requirements” on previous page)  

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)  

Under Direct Supervision of a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) or RDH in Alternative Practice*  
• Perform oral health assessments in school-based, community health project settings  
• Size and fit endodontic master points and accessory points.  
• Cement endodontic master points and accessory points  
• Polish and contour existing amalgam restorations  
• Adjust and cement permanent indirect restorations  

Under Direct or General Supervision*  
The supervising dentist is responsible for performing the following:  
• All duties a registered dental assistant is allowed to perform  

Note: A new law, passed in the 2014 legislative session, authorizes RDAEs with additional training to perform additional expanded functions. See next page for more information.  

Note: This state allows the dental assistant to perform specified sets of orthodontic assisting functions and sedation assisting functions. Please see the separate charts for California orthodontic and sedation functions beginning on p. 22.  

Place patient monitoring sensors  
Monitor patient sedation, limited to reading and transmitting information from the monitor display during the intraoperative phase of surgery for electrocardiogram waveform, carbon dioxide and end tidal carbon dioxide measurements, respiratory cycle data, continuous noninvasive blood pressure data, or pulse arterial oxygen saturation measurements, for the purpose of interpretation and evaluation by a supervising licensed dentist who shall be at the patient’s chairside during this procedure.  

Under Direct Supervision of a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) in Alternative Practice*  
48. Intraoral retraction  
48. Suctioning  
• Any extraoral duty  

*Direct Supervision: Supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist, who must be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures. General Supervision: Supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist but not requiring the physical presence of the supervising dentist during the performance of those procedures. All procedures shall be checked and approved by the supervising dentist prior to dismissal of the patient from the office of said dentist.  

Direct Supervision by RDH or RDH in Alternative Practice: Dental assistants may perform these duties while employed by or practicing in a licensed primary care clinic or specialty clinic, a primary care clinic exempt from licensure, or a contracted clininc owned and operated by a hospital.  

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To perform the additional expanded functions listed to the right pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a supervising dentist in California, a dental assistant must be licensed as a Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) and must receive additional training in the functions.

To register as an RDAEF, one must:
- Hold a valid license as an RDA (See p. 18 for RDA licensure requirements)
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved course for application of pit and fissure sealants
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved extended functions educational program
- Apply to the Dental Board of California for licensure as a Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions
- Pass a written exam and a clinical and practical exam administered by the California Board

To qualify to perform the additional functions listed to the right, one must:
- Provide evidence, satisfactory to the Dental Board of California, of having completed a board-approved course in those functions

### Under Supervision*

- Determine which radiographs to perform on a patient who has not received an initial examination by the supervising dentist for the specific purpose of the dentist making a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient, following protocols established by the supervising dentist, in the following settings:
  - (A) In a dental office setting
  - (B) In public health settings, using telehealth for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics, under the general supervision* of a dentist

- Place protective restorations, identified as interim therapeutic restorations, and defined as a direct provisional restoration placed to stabilize the tooth until a licensed dentist diagnoses the need for further definitive treatment. An interim therapeutic restoration consists of the removal of soft material from the tooth using only hand instrumentation, without the use of rotary instrumentation, and subsequent placement of an adhesive restorative material. Local anesthesia shall not be necessary for interim therapeutic restoration placement. Interim therapeutic restorations shall be placed only in accordance with both of the following:
  - (A) In either of the following settings:
    - (i) In a dental office setting, under the direct or general supervision* of a dentist as determined by the dentist.
    - (ii) In public health settings, using telehealth for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics, under the general supervision* of a dentist.
  - (B) After the diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.

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*Direct Supervision: Supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist, who must be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures.

*General Supervision: Supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist but not requiring the physical presence of the supervising dentist during the performance of those procedures. All procedures shall be checked and approved by the supervising dentist prior to dismissal of the patient from the office of said dentist.
Information about the
California
Orthodontic Assistant permit
and
Dental Sedation Assistant permit
can be found on the pages that follow.
A Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) in California may apply for an orthodontic assistant permit by completing the following:

- First be an RDAEF (see California RDAEF requirements on p. 18)
- AND
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved orthodontic assistant course and demonstrate successful completion of a California Board-approved ultrasonic scaling course
- AND
- Apply to the Dental Board of California for an orthodontic assistant permit
- AND
- Pass a state written exam in orthodontic duties

Note: A registered dental assistant in extended functions with an orthodontic assistant permit shall be referred to as an “RDAEF with orthodontic assistant permit,” for reference purposes only. This does not create an additional category of licensure.

A Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) in California may apply for an orthodontic assistant permit by completing the following:

- First be an RDA (see California RDA requirements on p. 18)
- AND
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved orthodontic assistant course and demonstrate successful completion of a California Board-approved ultrasonic scaling course
- AND
- Apply to the Dental Board of California for an orthodontic assistant permit
- AND
- Pass a state written exam in orthodontic duties

Note: A registered dental assistant with an orthodontic assistant permit shall be referred to as an “RDA with orthodontic assistant permit,” for reference purposes only. This does not create an additional category of licensure.

To qualify for an Orthodontic Assistant permit by work experience in California, one must:

- Complete at least 12 months of work experience as a dental assistant
- AND
- Successfully complete a 2-hour Board-approved course in the California Dental Practice Act and an 8-hour course in infection control
- AND
- Successfully complete an AHA or ARC-approved course in Basic Life Support, or any other course approved by the California Board as equivalent
- AND
- Successfully complete a California Board-approved orthodontic assistant course (may begin after six months of work experience as a dental assistant) and demonstrate successful completion of a California Board-approved ultrasonic scaling course
- AND
- Apply to the Dental Board of California for Orthodontic Assistant permit
- AND
- Pass a state written exam in orthodontic duties

A dental assistant in the state of California must be state certified in radiography to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures.

To apply for state certification, a dental assistant must:

- Successfully complete a California Board-approved radiation safety course which includes theory and clinical application in radiographic technique
- OR
- Have passed a radiation exam conducted by the California Board prior to Jan. 1, 1985
- AND
- Submit a copy of the certificate of completion to the Dental Board of California

To apply for an Orthodontic Assistant permit by education/training in California, one of the following shall be completed:

- Passed a state written exam in orthodontic duties
- OR
- Demonstrate successful completion of a California Board-approved orthodontic assistant course
- OR
- Have passed a state written exam in orthodontic duties and provide proof of successful completion in an orthodontic assistant course which was approved by the California Board
- OR
- Have passed a state written exam in orthodontic duties and demonstrate successful completion of an approved orthodontic assistant course in Basic Life Support, or any other course approved by the California Board as equivalent

The following functions are not permitted by a dental assistant, an orthodontic assistant or a dental sedation assistant:

33, 70. Placing, finishing or removing permanent restorations
- Diagnosis and comprehensive treatment planning
- Surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissue including, but not limited to, the removal of teeth and the cutting and suturing of soft tissue
- Prescribing medication
- Starting or adjusting local or general anesthesia or oral or parenteral conscious sedation; except for the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, whether administered alone or in combination with each other and except as otherwise provided by law
- Fitting and adjusting of corrective and prosthodontics appliances
- Irrigation and medication of canals, try-in cones, reaming, filing or filling of root canals
- Oral prophylaxis procedures
- Supragingival and subgingival scaling
## California (Orthodontic)

### 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)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Under Direct Supervision*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) with Orthodontic Assistant Permit</td>
<td>• All allowable duties of an RDAEF (see p. 19) • All allowable duties of an Orthodontic Assistant permit holder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) with Orthodontic Assistant Permit</td>
<td>• All allowable duties of an RDA (see p. 19) • All allowable duties of an Orthodontic Assistant permit holder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Orthodontic Assistant | **Under Direct Supervision***  
15. Place and ligate archwires  
29. Prepare teeth for bonding, and select, preposition and cure orthodontic brackets after their position has been approved by the supervising licensed dentist  
29. Size, fit and cement orthodontic bands  
61. Remove excess cement with an ultrasonic scaler from supragingival surfaces of teeth undergoing orthodontic treatment | • Remove only orthodontic brackets and attachments with removal of the bonding material by the supervising licensed dentist • Remove orthodontic bands • All duties that a dental assistant is allowed to perform |

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*Direct Supervision:* Supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist, who must be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures.
**California (Dental Sedation Assistant)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education/Training/Credential Required</th>
<th>Job Title According to State of CA</th>
<th>Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)</th>
<th>Radiography Requirements</th>
<th>Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in CA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) in California may apply for a dental sedation assistant permit by completing the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>A dental assistant in the state of California must be state certified in radiography to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures. To apply for state certification, a dental assistant must:</td>
<td>The following functions are not permitted by a dental assistant, an orthodontic assistant or a dental sedation assistant:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First be an RDAEF (see California RDAEF requirements on p. 18) AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Successfully complete a California Board-approved radiation safety course which includes theory and clinical application in radiographic technique OR Have passed a radiation exam conducted by the California Board prior to Jan. 1, 1985 AND</td>
<td>33, 70. Placing, finishing or removing permanent restorations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successfully complete a California Board-approved dental sedation assistant course AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Diagnosis and comprehensive treatment planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply to the Dental Board of California for a dental sedation assistant permit AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissue including, but not limited to, the removal of teeth and the cutting and suturing of soft tissue</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pass a state written exam in dental sedation duties Note: A registered dental assistant in extended functions with a dental sedation permit shall be referred to as an “RDAEF with dental sedation assistant permit,” for reference purposes only. This does not create an additional category of licensure.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Prescribing medication</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Starting or adjusting local or general anesthesia or oral or parenteral conscious sedation; except for the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, whether administered alone or in combination with each other and except as otherwise provided by law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) in California may apply for a dental sedation assistant permit by completing the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Fitting and adjusting of correctional and prosthodontics appliances</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First be an RDA (see California RDA requirements on p. 18) AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Irrigation and medication of canals, try-in cones, reaming, filing or filling of root canals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Successfully complete a California Board-approved dental sedation assistant course AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Supragingival and subgingival scaling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply to the Dental Board of California for a dental sedation assistant permit AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Oral prophylaxis procedures</td>
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<td>Pass a state written exam in dental sedation duties Note: A registered dental assistant with a dental sedation assistant permit shall be referred to as an “RDA with dental sedation assistant permit,” for reference purposes only. This does not create an additional category of licensure.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 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*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title According to State of CA</th>
<th>Allowable Functions</th>
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| Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions (RDAEF) with Dental Sedation Permit | **Under Direct Supervision**
  - All allowable duties of an RDAEF (see p. 19)
  - All allowable duties of a Dental Sedation Assistant permit holder |
| Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) with Dental Sedation Assistant Permit | **Under Direct Supervision**
  - All allowable duties of an RDA (see p. 19)
  - All allowable duties of a Dental Sedation Assistant permit holder |
| Dental Sedation Assistant | **Under Direct Supervision**
  - All duties that a dental assistant is allowed to perform
  - Monitor patients undergoing conscious sedation or general anesthesia utilizing data from noninvasive instrumentation such as pulse oximeters, electrocardiograms, capnography, blood pressure, pulse and respiration rate monitoring devices. Evaluation of the condition of a sedated patient shall remain the responsibility of the dentist or other licensed healthcare professional authorized to administer conscious sedation or general anesthesia, who shall be at the patient’s chairside while conscious sedation or general anesthesia is being administered.
  - Drug identification and draw, limited to identification of appropriate medications, ampule and vial preparation, and withdrawing drugs of correct amount as verified by the supervising licensed dentist
  - Add drugs, medications and fluids to intravenous lines using a syringe, provided that a supervising licensed dentist is present at the patient’s chairside, limited to determining patency of intravenous line, selection of injection port, syringe insertion into injection port, occlusion of intravenous line and blood aspiration, line release and injection of drugs for appropriate time interval (except the initial dose of a drug or medication shall be administered by the supervising licensed dentist)
  - Removal of intravenous lines |
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 postsurgical 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 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.