





Education/Training/ Credential Required	Job Title According to State of CO	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in CO
<p><i>Some dental assistants in the state of Colorado may choose to complete an Expanded Duties Dental Assistant (EDDA) educational program. The EDDA designation is not recognized by the Colorado Dental Board and does not qualify a dental assistant to perform expanded duties in the state.</i></p> <p>A <b>dental assistant</b> in the state of Colorado may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state dental practice act (see opposite page) under the supervision of a licensed dentist.</p> <p>There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the supervising dentist to ensure that dental personnel who <b>administer and/or monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation</b> are appropriately trained. Dental assistants who administer and/or monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen inhalation must successfully complete current Basic Life Support (BLS) training.</p>	<p><b>Expanded Duties Dental Assistant (EDDA)</b></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 Colorado, a dental assistant <u>must</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Be at least 18 years of age</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Successfully complete minimum safety, education and training for operating machine sources of ionizing radiation and administering such radiation to patients. Approved education or training includes:                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The completion of five hours of practical or clinical experience and 3.5 hours of lecture for a total of 8.5 hours from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, Colorado Commission on Higher Education, the State Board of Community Colleges and Occupational Education, the Private Occupational School Division (or the equivalent in any other state)</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>(b) Education and training may be provided on-the-job by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist, provided that the educational module used is approved by the Colorado Dental Board</li> <li><b>OR</b></li> <li>(c) Successful completion of the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam or the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The following functions are <b>not</b> permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <p>20. Scaling (supra- and sub-gingival), as it pertains to the practice of dental hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnosis</li> <li>• Treatment planning</li> <li>• Prescription of therapeutic measures</li> <li>• Any procedure that contributes to or results in an irremediable alteration of the oral anatomy</li> <li>• Administration of local anesthesia</li> <li>• Root planing</li> <li>• Soft tissue curettage</li> <li>• Periodontal probing</li> <li>• Placement of local therapeutic agents</li> <li>• Use protective stabilization</li> </ul> <p>Limited prescriptive authority for local therapeutic agents may not be delegated or assigned to a dental assistant.</p>
<p>Dental assistants who render patient care services in a dental setting where local anesthesia, analgesia (including nitrous oxide), minimal sedation, moderate sedation, deep sedation or general anesthesia are being administered, shall have successfully completed and shall maintain continuous certification in Basic Life Support (BLS) training for healthcare providers recognized by the American Heart Association, the American Safety and Health Institute, or the American Red Cross.</p>	<p><b>Dental Assistant</b></p>	<p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <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>	

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

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

Dental  
Assistant

**Under Direct Supervision\***

- 59. Monitor the use of nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious analgesia (see requirements on previous page)
    - Assist the dentist in using protective stabilization as necessary
- A dental assistant may perform intraoral and extraoral tasks and procedures necessary for the fabrication of a complete or partial denture under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. These tasks and procedures shall include the following:  
44, 46. Making of preliminary and final impressions
- Jaw relation records and determination of vertical dimensions
  - Tooth selection
  - A preliminary try-in of the wax-up trial denture prior to and subject to a try-in and approval in writing of the wax-up trial denture by the licensed dentist
  - Denture adjustments that involve the periphery, occlusal, or tissue-bearing surfaces of the denture prior to the final examination of the denture

**Under Indirect Supervision\***

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

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