



# 2018 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Maryland



## 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			
<p><b>Education/Training/Credential Required</b></p> <p>To perform specified restorative functions in Arizona under the supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona Registered Function or Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative Functioning Certificate (see requirements to dental assisting).</li> <li>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.</li> <li>AND DANB's AMP, TMP and TAMP.</li> <li>AND have the supervision of a licensed dentist, perform restorative procedures equivalent to the ASBDE criteria, and have 20 direct restorations and other restorative procedures, including the preparation of the tooth by a licensed dentist, and document these procedures on a Licensed Dental Employment Form.</li> <li>AND the DANB for Arizona Restorative Certificate.</li> </ul> <p>To perform general polishing procedures in Arizona under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona General Polishing Certificate.</p> <p>To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Dental Council of Public Health (DCPH) Exam for Arizona Restorative/Polishing procedure.</li> <li>AND the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative/Polishing Certificate issued by DANB.</li> <li>AND Pass the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative/Polishing Certificate issued by DANB.</li> </ul> <p>A dental assistant in Arizona may perform basic restorative procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.</p> <p>There are no education/training requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p>	<p><b>Job Title Assigned by State (P.A.)</b></p> <p>Registered Function Restorative Certificate</p> <p>Registered Function General Polishing Certificate</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>General Polishing Certificate</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p><b>Proposed Restorative Job Title</b></p> <p>Restorative</p> <p>General Polishing</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>General Polishing</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p><b>Radiography Requirements</b></p> <p>In order to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in Arizona, a dental assistant must have a current approved certificate in radiography.</p> <p>To obtain a certificate, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the national DANB Radiation Safety and Safety (RHS) exam.</li> <li>AND Pass the Arizona Restorative/Polishing Certificate, issued by DANB.</li> <li>AND be currently certified in another U.S. state with a Restorative/Polishing Certificate, issued by the ASBDE.</li> </ul> <p>AND: Restorative/Polishing dental radiography to use the Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) Restorative/Polishing Certificate, which is not valid for dental radiography in Arizona. The ASBDE Restorative/Polishing Certificate, issued by the ASBDE.</p> <p>AND: The ADA/DANB Alliance on the Restorative/Polishing Certificate issued in 2022-2023.</p> <p>The same study offered a list of 70 restorative/Polishing tasks with a comprehensive 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 study's task numbering system.)</p> <p>Functions listed with italics are part of the state's practice act but are not specific to the DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study.</p> <p>These states implement restorative procedures to support a uniform dental practice act and ensure dental assisting tasks, roles and requirements, which will serve as a model center for dental assistants.</p>

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

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.

Arizona	
<p><b>Job Title Assigned by State (P.A.)</b></p> <p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p><b>Allowable Functions</b></p> <p>If functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations, functions with italics are in the state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB research.</p> <p><b>Under General Supervision*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Apply fluoride varnish</li> <li>40. Apply sealants</li> <li>* Place interim restorations under the direction of a licensed dentist following a consultation conducted through radiography.</li> </ul> <p><b>Level of Supervision Not Specified</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 licensed dentist; the restorative materials used will be determined by the dentist.</li> </ul> <p><b>Under Direct Supervision*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Perform coronal polishing procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Under Direct Supervision*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Remove sutures</li> <li>23. Apply topical fluoride</li> <li>35. Apply dental dams and matrix bands</li> <li>40. Apply sealants</li> <li>47. DR restorations and glass ionomer cements</li> <li>49. DR Restorations with temporary cement</li> <li>52. DR Restorations with permanent cement</li> <li>53. DR Restorations with permanent cement and interim restorations with hand cements</li> <li>54. Clinical x-ray patient during routine radiology and diagnostic radiology and digital radiology as instructed by the dentist</li> <li>61. Remove excess cement from stents</li> <li>62. Remove excess cement from stents, bridges and orthodontics</li> <li>63. Remove pontical dressings with hand instruments</li> <li>64. Prepare a patient for retentive socket and complete denture construction with a dental chair</li> <li>65. Place dental material into a patient's mouth in response to a licensed dentist's instruction</li> <li>* Choose the supragingival surface of the tooth to be prepared for the placement of veneers, crowns, and inlays.</li> <li>* The placement of veneers, crowns, and inlays requires a dental chair procedure.</li> <li>* Acid etch procedures.</li> <li>* Removal of dressings and packs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Under General Supervision*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Collect and record information pertaining to dental conditions</li> <li>3. Collect and record information pertaining to existing restorations</li> <li>4. Take or instruct patients in oral hygiene, restorative preventive procedures, dietary counseling for caries and periodontal, and provide oral and diagnostic radiology and digital radiology relative to specific office treatment</li> </ul>

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 MD	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <u>NOT</u> Permitted by Dental Assistants in MD
<p>To perform <b>expanded functions</b> in the state of Maryland (see listing on opposite page), a dental assistant <b>must</b> register as a <b>Dental Assistant Qualified in General Duties</b>.</p> <p>To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a Board-approved course of at least 35 hours related to Maryland general duties dental assisting</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Maryland General Dental Assisting Expanded Functions (MDG) exam administered by DANB</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply to the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners for state recognition as a Maryland Dental Assistant Qualified in General Duties</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> While not required by law, it is recommended that a Dental Assistant Qualified in General Duties also earn status as a Dental Radiation Technologist (see requirements to the right).</p>	<p>Dental Assistant Qualified in General Duties</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p>	<p>A dental assistant in the state of Maryland <b>must</b> be state certified as a <b>Dental Radiation Technologist</b> in order to operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures. This must be performed under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. To obtain this state certification, one must:</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>Be of good moral character</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold a high school diploma or its equivalent</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully complete a Board-approved course of at least 24 hours related to Maryland dental radiology</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam or Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply for state certification to the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> An individual holding an active radiology license or certification in another state may apply for Maryland certification if he or she has engaged in practicing dental radiation technology for at least 150 hours in the three years preceding application and meets any ADA or federal requirements. In addition, beginning in 2011, all Dental Radiation Technologists seeking to renew or reinstate their certificates shall have completed a two-hour, Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners-approved course in infection control.</p>	<p>The following functions are <b>not</b> permitted* by a Dental Assistant Qualified in General Duties or a non-registered Dental Assistant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oral prophylactic procedures, including scaling, root planing and polishing teeth</li> <li>Placing or removing an arch wire</li> <li>Placing elastics or ligatures</li> <li>Preparing or fitting orthodontic bands</li> <li>Condensing, carving or finishing any restoration</li> <li>Placing an initial surgical dressing</li> <li>Apply pit and fissure sealants</li> <li>Monitoring nitrous oxide             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examination, diagnosis and treatment planning</li> <li>Surgery on hard or soft tissues</li> <li>Administering injectable local anesthesia</li> <li>Initiation of treatment at any time for the correction of malocclusions and malformations of the teeth or jaws</li> <li>Adjusting occlusion of natural teeth, restorations or appliances</li> <li>Registration of jaw relations</li> <li>Selecting headgear</li> <li>Adjusting prosthetic appliances</li> <li>Cementing of orthodontic bands, placement of bonded attachments or the removal of cement or bonded orthodontic bands and attachments</li> <li>Cementing permanent crowns or restorations</li> <li>Administering nitrous oxide</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p>A <b>dental assistant</b> in the state of Maryland may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state dental practice act (see opposite page) under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.</p> <p>There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assisting.</p> <p>A <b>dental assistant working under general supervision for a sealant program</b> must do all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain American Heart Association Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers (BLS) or American Red Cross CPR for Professional Rescuers</li> <li>Have at least 400 hours of dental assisting clinical practice in dental patient care</li> <li>Successfully complete a Board-approved course of at least two hours in infection control with OSHA protocol, <b>or</b> be Qualified in General Duties (see requirements above) or Orthodontic Duties (see requirements on p. 62), <b>or</b> hold current DANB CDA or COA certification</li> <li>Enter into a written agreement with the supervising dentist setting forth the terms and conditions of practice under general supervision</li> </ul>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p>The ADA/DANB Alliance developed a listing of standardized job titles (left) based on its national Core Competencies Study conducted from 2002-2005.</p> <p>The same study utilized a list of 70 job functions which were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>Functions in this state that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are numbered to the right, using language directly from this state's dental practice act. (The numbers correspond to the study's task numbering system.)</p> <p>Functions listed with bullets are part of this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.</p>	<p>*Some of these functions <b>may</b> be permitted by Dental Assistants Qualified in Orthodontics; see the Maryland (Orthodontic) template on pp. 62- 63.</p>

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Job Title  
According to  
State of MD

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)

Dental  
Assistant  
Qualified  
in General  
Duties

**Under Direct Supervision\***

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Placing or removing retraction cord</li> <li>13. Removing sutures</li> <li>14. Drying a root canal</li> <li>18. Applying topical fluoride</li> <li>27. Placing or removing a rubber dam</li> <li>35, 62. Removing or placing a periodontal dressing (except placing the original periodontal dressing)</li> <li>43. Preparing and fitting stainless steel crowns</li> <li>44. Taking alginate impressions for intraoral appliances</li> <li>45. Placing or removing a matrix band</li> <li>47. Preparing temporary crowns</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>47. Cementing temporary crowns or restorations</li> <li>49. Performing vitality tests</li> <li>54. Removing temporary crowns</li> <li>54. Removing excess cement                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etching</li> <li>• Fabricating indirect restorations in a dental office</li> <li>• Applying desensitizing agents</li> <li>• All duties designated to non-registered Dental Assistants, under the same level of required supervision</li> <li>• Any other duty approved by the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners (see DANB's 2018 State Fact Booklet or the "Dental Auxiliaries Procedures Chart" on the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners' website at <a href="https://health.maryland.gov/dental">https://health.maryland.gov/dental</a> for additional duties)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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**Note:** This state allows dental assistants qualified in orthodontics to perform a separate set of **orthodontic functions**. Please see the separate chart for Maryland orthodontic functions on the pages that follow.

**Under Direct Supervision\***

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24. Instructing on oral hygiene</li> <li>27, 25, 48. Placement and removal of materials for the isolation of the dentition, provided that the material is not retained by the dentition</li> <li>44. Taking impressions for study models or diagnostic casts</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48 Rinsing and aspiration of the oral cavity</li> <li>48. Retraction of the lips, cheek, tongue and flaps</li> <li>56. Applying topical anesthesia</li> <li>64. Constructing athletic mouth guards on models</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performing intraoral photography</li> <li>• Curing by the use of halogen light</li> <li>• Checking for loose bands</li> <li>• Any other duty approved by the Board (see DANB's 2018 State Fact Booklet or the "Dental Auxiliaries Procedures Chart" on the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners' website at <a href="https://health.maryland.gov/dental">https://health.maryland.gov/dental</a> for additional duties)</li> </ul> |
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**Under General Supervision\* for a dental sealant program\*\***

(See requirements on opposite page)

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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24. Instructing on oral hygiene</li> <li>25. Cleaning and disinfecting environmental surfaces and equipment</li> <li>25. Sterilizing instruments</li> <li>27, 45, 48. Placing and removing materials for the isolation of the dentition, if the material is not retained by the dentition</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30. Transferring instruments and sealants to a dentist or dental hygienist</li> <li>41. Preparing materials for the application of sealants</li> <li>48. Retracting lips, cheek, and tongue</li> <li>48. Rinsing and aspirating the oral cavity</li> </ul> |
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**\*\* A dental assistant may only perform these duties under general supervision of a dentist for a facility that has been granted a waiver of onsite supervision for a dental hygienist or while assisting a dental hygienist who has received a waiver of onsite supervision, pursuant to applicable Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners regulations.**

Dental  
Assistant

**\*Direct Supervision:** The supervising dentist is in the dental office; personally diagnoses the condition to be treated; personally authorizes the procedure; and, before dismissal of the patient, personally evaluates the performance of the dental assistant.  
**General Supervision:** The supervision of a dental assistant by a dentist where the dentist may or may not be present when the dental assistant performs the dental assisting procedures.

Education/Training/ Credential Required?	Job Title According to State of MD	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <b>NOT</b> permitted by orthodontic assistants in MD
<p>To perform <b>orthodontic functions</b> in the state of Maryland, a dental assistant <i>must</i> register as a <b>Dental Assistant Qualified in Orthodontics</b>.</p> <p>To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complete a Board-approved course of at least 35 hours related to Maryland orthodontic dental assisting</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b> Pass the Maryland Orthodontic Assisting Expanded Functions (MDO) exam administered by DANB</p> <p><b>OR</b> Hold the national DANB Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA) certification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <b>AND</b> Apply to the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners for state recognition as a Maryland Dental Assistant Qualified in Orthodontics</li> </ul>	<p>Dental Assistant Qualified in Orthodontics</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Orthodontic Assistant (EFOA)</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA) or Registered Orthodontic Assistant (ROA)</p> <hr/> <p>Orthodontic Assistant</p>	<p>A dental assistant in the state of Maryland <i>must</i> be state certified as a <b>Dental Radiation Technologist</b> in order to operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures. This must be performed under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. To obtain this state certification, one must:</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>■ Be of good moral character</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Hold a high school diploma or its equivalent</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Successfully complete a Board-approved course of at least 24 hours related to Maryland dental radiology</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam or Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Apply for state certification to the Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> An individual holding an active radiology license or certification in another state may apply for Maryland certification if he or she has engaged in practicing dental radiation technology for at least 150 hours in the three years preceding application and meets any ADA or federal requirements. In addition, all Dental Radiation Technologists seeking to renew or reinstate a certificate shall have completed a two-hour, Maryland State Board of Dental Examiners-approved course in infection control.</p>	<p>The following functions are <b>not</b> permitted by a Dental Assistant Qualified in Orthodontics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Placing or removing retraction cord</li> <li>9, 20. Oral prophylactic procedures, including scaling, root planing and polishing of teeth with rotary instruments</li> <li>14. Drying a root canal</li> <li>27. Placing or removing a rubber dam</li> <li>33. Condensing, carving or finishing any restoration</li> <li>35, 62. Removing or placing a periodontal dressing</li> <li>40. Applying pit and fissure sealants</li> <li>43. Preparing and fitting stainless steel crowns</li> <li>45. Placing or removing a matrix band</li> <li>47. Preparing temporary crowns</li> <li>49. Performing vitality tests</li> <li>54. Removing temporary crowns</li> <li>59. Monitoring nitrous oxide</li> <li>63. Placing an initial surgical dressing             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examination, diagnosis and treatment planning</li> <li>• Surgery on hard or soft tissues</li> <li>• Administering injectable local anesthesia</li> <li>• Initiation of treatment at any time for the correction of malocclusions and malformations of the teeth or jaws</li> <li>• Adjusting occlusion of natural teeth, restorations or appliances</li> <li>• Cementing temporary or permanent crowns or restorations</li> <li>• Adjusting prosthetic appliances</li> <li>• Administering nitrous oxide</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
<p>There are no specified education or training requirements in Maryland for any level of orthodontic assisting other than Dental Assistant Qualified in Orthodontics.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Entry Level Orthodontic Assistant</p>	<p>The ADAA/DANB Alliance developed a listing of standardized job titles based on its national Core Competencies Study conducted from 2002-2005, for <b>general</b> chairside assistants only. Currently, only three states (MD, NJ, and OR) recognize one or more separate levels of orthodontic assisting.</p> <p>← If the ADAA/DANB Alliance were to attempt to replicate the general chairside assistant Core Competencies Study for orthodontic assistants, the templates would contain the proposed standardized job titles that appear at left.</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.) Functions listed with bullets are part of this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.</p>	

Job Title According to State of MD	Allowable functions (Functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designation, functions with bullets are not a specific match to the list.)
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Dental Assistant Qualified in Orthodontics

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N/A

<p><b><u>Under Direct Supervision*</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Placing and removing arch wires</li> <li>15. Placing elastics and ligatures</li> <li>18. Applying topical fluoride</li> <li>24. Instructing on oral hygiene</li> <li>29. Preparing and fitting orthodontic bands</li> <li>44. Taking impressions for study models or diagnostic casts</li> <li>44. Taking alginate impressions for intraoral appliances</li> <li>48. Rinsing and aspiration of the oral cavity</li> <li>48. Retraction of the lips, cheek, tongue and flaps</li> <li>48. Placement and removal of materials for the isolation of the dentition, provided that the material is not retained by the dentition</li> <li>56. Applying topical anesthesia</li> <li>61. Removing excess cement from around orthodontic bands</li> <li>64. Constructing athletic mouth guards on models                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performing intraoral photography</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Curing by the use of halogen light</li> <li>• Checking for loose bands</li> <li>• Etching</li> <li>• Cementing of orthodontic bands, placement of bonded attachments, or the removal of cemented or bonded orthodontic bands and attachments</li> <li>• Selecting headgear</li> <li>• Applying desensitizing agents</li> <li>• Any other duty approved by the Board (see DANB's 2018 State Fact Booklet or the "Dental Auxiliaries Procedures Chart" on the Maryland Board of Dental Examiners' website at <a href="https://health.maryland.gov/dental">https://health.maryland.gov/dental</a> for additional duties)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>No allowable functions are specified in the Maryland dental practice act for any level of orthodontic assisting other than Dental Assistant Qualified in Orthodontics.</p>
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\*Direct Supervision: The supervising orthodontist is in the office; personally diagnoses the condition to be treated; personally authorizes the procedure; and, before dismissal of the patient, personally evaluates the performance of the dental assistant.