



# 2018 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Pennsylvania



## 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 Certificate exam.</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>Hold DANB's AAMP, TRMP and RAMP.</li> <li>Under the supervision of a licensed dentist, perform restorative procedures equivalent to the ASBDE Clinical Guidelines and meet 20 direct restorative and other restorative procedures on a Licensed Dental Employment form.</li> <li>Hold the DANB for Arizona Restorative Certificate.</li> </ul> <p>To perform coronal polishing procedures in Arizona under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold the Arizona Coronal Polishing Certificate.</p> <p>To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Coronal Polishing Exam for Arizona Restorative Certificate.</li> <li>Hold the Arizona Coronal Polishing Certificate (ASBDE) or a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited program.</li> <li>Hold DANB's AAMP, TRMP and RAMP.</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> </ul> <p>A dental assistant in Arizona may perform basic supportive dental procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take and mix radiographic impressions for dental assistants.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Job Title Assigned by State (PA)</b></p> <p>Registered Function (Restorative Certificate)</p> <p>Registered Function (Coronal Polishing Certificate)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Coronal Polishing Certificate</p>	<p><b>Proposed Restorative Job Title</b></p> <p>Restorative</p> <p>Coronal Polishing</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Coronal Polishing Certificate</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 hold an Arizona Registered Function or Restorative Certificate in radiology. 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>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>Hold DANB's AAMP, TRMP and RAMP.</li> <li>Under the supervision of a licensed dentist, perform radiographic procedures equivalent to the ASBDE Clinical Guidelines and meet 20 direct restorative and other restorative procedures on a Licensed Dental Employment form.</li> </ul> <p>The ADA/DANB Alliance on the Dental Care Workforce Study conducted from 2002-2003.</p> <p>The same study offered a list of 70 restorative tasks with a corresponding 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 specifically mentioned in DANB/ADAA.</p> <p>These tasks typically reflect the work done by dental assistants in support of a dentist in a dental practice. Some dental assisting tasks, some and requirements, which will vary as a result of local requirements for dental assistants.</p>



Arizona	
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<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 specifically mentioned in 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 radiology.</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, as well as by a licensed dentist, the restorative materials used will be determined by the dentist.</li> </ul> <p><b>Under General Supervision*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Perform coronal polishing procedures.</li> </ul> <p><b>Under Direct Supervision*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Remove amalgam</li> <li>23. Apply dental cements and resin cements</li> <li>42. Remove restorative dental dams and health barriers</li> <li>43. Apply sealants</li> <li>47. DR restorations and glass ionomers</li> <li>49. DR restorations with temporary cement</li> <li>52. Remove restorative cement and interim restorations with hand instruments</li> <li>61. Remove access cement from trays, crowns, bridges, and orthodontics</li> <li>62. Remove pontical restorations with hand instruments</li> <li>63. Prepare a patient for retentive resin and complete denture impressions using a dental impression tray</li> <li>64. Place dental material into a patient's mouth in response to a licensed dentist's instruction.</li> </ul> <p><b>Under General Supervision*</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Conduct and record information pertaining to coronal polishing procedures by existing coronal polishing equipment</li> <li>14. DR restorations</li> <li>24. DR restorations</li> <li>25. DR restorations</li> <li>26. DR restorations</li> <li>27. DR restorations</li> <li>28. DR restorations</li> <li>29. DR restorations</li> <li>30. DR restorations</li> <li>31. DR restorations</li> <li>32. DR restorations</li> <li>33. DR restorations</li> <li>34. DR restorations</li> <li>35. DR restorations</li> <li>36. DR restorations</li> <li>37. DR restorations</li> <li>38. DR restorations</li> <li>39. DR restorations</li> <li>40. DR restorations</li> <li>41. DR restorations</li> <li>42. DR restorations</li> <li>43. DR restorations</li> <li>44. DR restorations</li> <li>45. DR restorations</li> <li>46. DR restorations</li> <li>47. DR restorations</li> <li>48. DR restorations</li> <li>49. DR restorations</li> <li>50. DR restorations</li> <li>51. DR restorations</li> <li>52. DR restorations</li> <li>53. DR restorations</li> <li>54. DR restorations</li> <li>55. DR restorations</li> <li>56. DR restorations</li> <li>57. DR restorations</li> <li>58. DR restorations</li> <li>59. DR restorations</li> <li>60. DR restorations</li> <li>61. DR restorations</li> <li>62. DR restorations</li> <li>63. DR restorations</li> <li>64. DR restorations</li> <li>65. DR restorations</li> <li>66. DR restorations</li> <li>67. DR restorations</li> <li>68. DR restorations</li> <li>69. DR restorations</li> <li>70. DR restorations</li> </ul>	

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 PA	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <b>NOT</b> Permitted by Dental Assistants in PA
<p>To perform <b>expanded functions</b> in the state of Pennsylvania under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must hold a state certification as an <b>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</b>.</p> <p>To obtain this state certification, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graduate from an expanded function dental assisting program at a two-year college or other state board-approved program which offers an associate degree <b>OR</b> Graduate from a CODA-accredited dental hygiene school, which requires the successful completion of at least 75 hours of clinical and didactic instruction in restorative functions <b>OR</b> Complete a state certification program in expanded function dental assisting of at least 200 hours of clinical and didactic instruction from either a CODA-accredited dental assisting program or a state board-approved dental assisting program <b>AND</b></li> <li>Apply for state certification in expanded functions to the Pennsylvania State Board of Dentistry <b>AND</b></li> <li>Pass a Pennsylvania board-acceptable written exam</li> </ul>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</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 under the direct supervision of a dentist in the state of Pennsylvania, a dental assistant <b>must</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam</li> </ul> <p>Evidence of having passed the required exam should be retained by the dental assistant and the licensed dentist as evidence of the individual's authority to perform radiologic procedures.</p>	<p>The following functions are <b>not</b> permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <p>46. Take impressions other than for study models, diagnostic casts or athletic appliances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete or limited examination, diagnosis and treatment planning.</li> <li>Surgical or cutting procedures of hard or soft tissue.</li> <li>Prescribing drugs, medicaments or work authorizations.</li> <li>Final inspection and approval of restorative and other treatment which affects occlusion and any necessary occlusal adjustments.</li> <li>Pulp capping, pulpotomy and other endodontic procedures.</li> <li>Placement and intraoral adjustments of fixed and removable prosthetic appliances.</li> <li>Administration of local anesthesia, parenteral or inhalational sedation, nitrous oxide analgesia or general anesthesia.</li> </ul>
<p>A <b>dental assistant</b> in the state of Pennsylvania 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 assistant.</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>	

Job Title  
According to  
State of PA

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)

Expanded  
Function  
Dental  
Assistant  
(EFDA)

**Under Direct Supervision\***

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Perform coronal polishing</li> <li>12. Placing and condensing amalgam restoration and other restorative materials</li> <li>18. Perform fluoride treatments, including fluoride varnish</li> <li>27. Placing and removing rubber dams</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>33, 40. Placing and finishing composite resin restorations and/or sealant material or both</li> <li>34. Applying cavity liners and bases</li> <li>45. Placing and removing matrices</li> <li>51. Carving and contouring amalgam restorations</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placing and removing wedges</li> <li>• Taking impressions of teeth for study models, diagnostic casts or athletic appliances</li> <li>• All duties designated to Dental Assistants, under the same levels of required supervision</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

Dental  
Assistant

**Under Direct Supervision\***

- Any task, as deemed appropriate by the dentist, excluding prohibited tasks and tasks for which state certification as an EFDA is required

**DANB's Note on Allowable Dental Assisting Functions**

In the state of Pennsylvania, all dental assistants may

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

At this time, DANB cannot list all allowable dental assisting functions for each state because some states' dental practice acts outline very specific allowable functions, while others outline only prohibited functions and some contain minimal or no regulation of dental assisting duties.

\*Direct Supervision: A dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedure and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedure is being performed and, before dismissal of the patient, evaluates the work performed by the expanded function dental assistant.