



# 2018 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Rhode Island



## How to Use the Following Charts

- View which job designations are used in your state.
- Be sure to follow the legal requirements to perform dental radiographic procedures.
- See which tasks are not permitted by state law.
- Review all the allowable tasks for each level of dental assisting as published in the state practice act.

View the education/training/credential required for each level of dental assisting.



Arizona		State-approved 1/6/17	
Education/Training/Credential Required	Job Title Assigned by State (P-2)	Proposed Standard Job Title	Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in AZ
<p>To perform specified restorative procedures 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 Function 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>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 three indirect restorations and three preparation of the tooth by a licensed dentist and document these procedures on a Licensed Dental Employment form.</li> <li>AND the DANB for the 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 the Arizona General Polishing Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass the Dental Council of Public Health (DCPH) exam for the Arizona General Polishing Certificate.</li> <li>AND the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative Function exam.</li> <li>AND the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) General Polishing Certificate.</li> <li>AND the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative Certificate.</li> </ul> <p>Functions in this state that require the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are highlighted in the right-hand column of this chart.</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>In order to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in Arizona, a dental assistant must hold a 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>AND the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Radiology Proficiency Certificate, issued by the ASBDE.</li> <li>AND be currently certified in another health care profession or occupation in Arizona.</li> </ul> <p>Restorative procedures that require the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are highlighted in the right-hand column of this chart.</p>	<p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>46. Taking full impressions for any activating orthodontic appliances, fixed or removable prosthetics.</li> <li>51. Introral carrying of dental radiographs or "filmholders".</li> <li>A procedure which by law only a licensed dentist can perform.</li> <li>Final job registration.</li> <li>Administering antibiotics.</li> <li>An irreversible procedure.</li> </ul> <p>* Under a new Arizona law passed in the 2015 legislative session, a dental assistant who has met the requirements for an Registered Function or Restorative Certificate, issued by the ASBDE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under a new Arizona law passed in the 2015 legislative session, a dental assistant who has met the requirements for an Registered Function or Restorative Certificate, issued by the ASBDE:</li> </ul>

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		State-approved 1/6/17	
Job Title Assigned by State (P-2)	Education/Training/Credential Required	Proposed Standard Job Title	Allowable Functions
			<p>If functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations, functions with numbers 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 orthodontic appliances 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, containing and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and temporary placement of indirect restorations in the mouth 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>9. 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 topical fluoride.</li> <li>41. Place and remove dental dams and mouth barriers.</li> <li>42. Remove periodontal dressings with hand instruments.</li> <li>47. DR, restorative and general dentistry.</li> <li>49. Remove orthodontic cement and interim restorations with hand instruments.</li> <li>52. Remove orthodontic cement and interim restorations with hand instruments.</li> <li>53. 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. Collect and record information pertaining to dental conditions.</li> <li>3. Take or instruct patients in oral hygiene techniques, preventive procedures, dietary counseling by patient and general dental and provide oral and dental hygiene education relative to specific office treatment.</li> </ul> <p>* Under supervision of a licensed dentist.</p>

If your state's dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted below the chart. See Appendix B for more information about supervision.

These data are presented for informational purposes only and are not intended as a legal opinion regarding dental practice in any state. DANB confers with each state's dental board at least annually regarding the accuracy and currency of this information. To verify, or if you have any questions, please contact your state's dental board.

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Education/Training/ Credential Required	Job Title According to State of RI	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <b>NOT</b> Permitted by Dental Assistants in RI
<p>To perform <b>expanded functions</b> in Rhode Island under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, a dental assistant must be a <b>DANB-Certified assistant</b>, holding one of the following DANB national certifications: Certified Dental Assistant (CDA), Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA), Certified Preventive Functions Dental Assistants (CPFDA), Certified Restorative Functions Dental Assistants (CRFDA), Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (COMSA) or Certified Dental Practice Management Administrator (CDPMA).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Individuals who have passed a DANB certification exam but have not renewed certification are no longer DANB-Certified assistants.</p> <p>In Rhode Island, DANB-Certified assistants may perform the expanded functions listed on the opposite page provided they have graduated from a dental assisting education program that incorporated academic training in these procedures or completed academic clinical training to clinical competence.</p>	<p>DANB-Certified Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Rhode Island, a dental assistant <i>must</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a course in dental radiography from an educational institution with a CODA-accredited program</li> </ul>	<p>The following functions are <b>not</b> permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <p>33, 51. Condensing and carving restorative materials in teeth, except temporary restoratives</p> <p>46. Taking impressions for models upon which full or partial dentures, or permanent crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays, posts and cores will be fabricated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diagnosis and treatment planning</li> <li>Surgical procedures on hard or soft tissue</li> <li>Prescribing medications</li> <li>Administering injectable local anesthetics</li> <li>Administering moderate sedation and/or minimal sedation and/or general anesthesia/deep sedation</li> <li>Administering inhalants or inhalation conscious sedation agents</li> <li>Adjusting occlusion of fixed and removable prosthodontic appliances</li> <li>Final cementation of permanent crowns, bridges, inlays, onlays, and posts and cores; and insertion of final prosthesis</li> <li>Placement of sutures</li> <li>Perform direct pulp capping procedures</li> <li>Orthodontic arch wire activation with the exception of minor adjustments to eliminate pain or discomfort</li> <li>Flush root canal</li> <li>Temporary wire ligation</li> <li>Use of a rotary instrument in the oral cavity unless licensed or certified under the provisions of the Rhode Island Dental Practice Act and the Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Dentists, Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants (See also §2.10.2(A)(2)(b) of the Regulations in DANB's 2018 <i>State Fact Booklet</i>.)</li> <li>Oral prophylaxis</li> </ul>
<p>A <b>dental assistant</b> in Rhode Island may perform dental procedures under the supervision of a licensed dentist, as specified by the state dental practice act (see opposite page).</p> <p>All dental assistants practicing in a dental setting shall hold a current certificate of completion. Basic Life Support (BLS) for the Healthcare Provider that includes a hands-on skill component and conforms to the current American Heart Association Guidelines Update for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Emergency Cardiovascular Care (ECC) offered by any accredited agency approved by the Board.</p> <p>Every dental assistant in Rhode Island must receive a minimum of one (1) hour per year of training in the CDC Infection Control Guidelines.</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p> The ADAA/DANB Alliance developed a listing of standardized job titles (left) based on its national Core Competencies Study conducted from 2002-2005.</p> <p>The same study utilized a list of 70 job functions which were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.</p> <p>Functions in this state that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are numbered to the right, using language directly from this state's dental practice act. (The numbers correspond to the study's task numbering system.) </p> <p>Functions listed with bullets are part of this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>These state templates reflect the work done by the ADAA/ DANB Alliance to support a uniform national model for one set of dental assisting tasks, levels and requirements, which will serve as a viable career ladder for dental assistants.</p> </div>	

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Job Title According to State of RI	Allowable Functions (Functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations; functions with bullets are in this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB research)
DANB- Certified Assistant	<p><b><u>Under Direct Supervision*</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Placing and/or removing retraction cord</li> <li>9. Coronal polishing</li> <li>18. Fluoride treatments</li> <li>29. Placing and removing bonded orthodontic attachments and/or cementation or removal of orthodontic bands</li> <li>40. Application of pit and fissure sealants                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reversible intraoral procedures as delegated by the dentist</li> <li>• All duties designated to dental assistants, under the same levels of required supervision</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 20px auto; width: 80%;"> <p><b>Note:</b> This state allows individuals certified as <b>DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistants</b> to perform a separate set of supportive functions related to administration of anesthesia. Please see the separate chart for DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant functions on the pages that follow.</p> </div>
Dental Assistant	<p><b><u>Under Direct Supervision*</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform a final digital scan (with final inspection and approval of dentist)</li> <li>• Reversible intraoral procedures as delegated by the dentist</li> </ul> <p><b><u>DANB's Note on Allowable Dental Assisting Functions</u></b></p> <p>In the state of Rhode Island, all dental assistants may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform infection control and occupational safety procedures</li> <li>• Perform other duties not specified by this state's dental practice act</li> </ul> <p>At this time, DANB cannot list all allowable dental assisting functions for each state because some states' dental practice acts outline very specific allowable functions, while others outline only prohibited functions and some contain minimal or no regulation of dental assisting duties.</p>

\*Direct Supervision:

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

Education/Training/ Credential Required	Job Title According to State of RI	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <u>NOT</u> Permitted by DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistants in RI
<p>To perform specified maxillofacial surgery assisting functions, an assistant must be licensed by the Rhode Island Board of Examiners in Dentistry as a DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant. To qualify for licensure, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Be of good moral character</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Be eighteen (18) years or older</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Successfully complete an approved program for Dental Anesthesia Assistants National Certification Examination (DAANCE) accredited by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons or its designated agency;</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Be certified as a dental anesthesia assistant by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complete a Board of Examiners in Dentistry-approved advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) course and hold current certification</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Apply to the Rhode Island Board of Examiners for licensure</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> The Rhode Island DAANCE-Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant application form (created December 1, 2017) is now available on the Rhode Island Department of Health Website (<a href="http://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=251">http://health.ri.gov/licenses/detail.php?id=251</a>) under the heading "Applications."</p>	<p>DAANCE Certified Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (COMSA) or Registered Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant (ROMSA)</p> <hr/> <p>Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>Entry Level Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Assistant</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Rhode Island, a dental assistant <u>must</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complete a course in dental radiography from an educational institution with a CODA-accredited program</li> </ul> <hr/> <p> The ADAA/DANB Alliance developed a listing of standardized job titles based on its national Core Competencies Study conducted from 2002-2005, for <u>general</u> chairside assistants only.</p> <p>If the ADAA/DANB Alliance were to attempt to replicate the general chairside assistant Core Competencies Study for anesthesia or maxillofacial surgery assistants, the templates would contain the proposed standardized job titles that appear at left.</p> <p>Some functions in the general chairside Core Competencies Study are also appropriate for these assistants. The study utilized a list of 70 job functions which were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies. </p> <p>Functions in this state that relate to the national DANB/ADAA Core Competencies Study are numbered to the right, using language directly from this state's dental practice act. (The numbers correspond to the study's task numbering system.)</p> <p>Functions listed with bullets are part of this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB/ADAA research.</p>	<p>See "Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in RI" on p. 120 for a list of functions that may not be delegated to dental assistants.</p>

Job Title  
According to  
State of RI

Allowable Functions  
(Functions with numbers relate specifically to Core Competency designations;  
functions with bullets are in this state's practice act but are not specific matches to DANB research)

DAANCE  
Certified  
Maxillofacial  
Surgery  
Assistant

**Under Direct Visual Supervision\***

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

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

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

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