



2018 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Tennessee



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>Education/Training/Credential Required</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"> Pass the Arizona Council on Dental Practice (ACDP) Restorative Certificate exam. 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. Hold DANB's AAMP, TAMP and RAMP. Complete a supervised experience 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. Hold the DANB for the Arizona Restorative Certificate. <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.</p> <p>To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Dental Council of Public Health (DCPH) exam for the General Polishing Certificate. Hold the Arizona General Polishing Certificate. Hold the Arizona General Polishing Certificate. Successfully complete the DANB Core Competency Study for the Arizona General Polishing Certificate. <p>A dental assistant in Arizona who performs restorative dental procedures under the supervision of a licensed dentist or a licensed dentist must have the education/training/credential requirements for that level of dental assisting.</p>	<p>Job Title Assigned by State (A-Z)</p> <p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <p>Expanded Restorative Dental Assistant (ERDA)</p> <p>General Polishing Dental Assistant (GPDA)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Central Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Proposed Restorative Job Titles</p> <p>Restorative Dental Assistant</p> <p>General Polishing Dental Assistant</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Central Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Radiography Requirements</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 Restorative Certificate in radiology. To obtain a certificate, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the national DANB Radiation Safety and Safety (RHS) exam. 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. Hold DANB's AAMP, TAMP and RAMP. 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. Hold DANB's AAMP, TAMP and RAMP. <p>The ADA/DANB Alliance on the Restorative Certificate Study conducted from 2002-2003.</p> <p>The same study offered a list of 70 job designations 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 states explicitly restrict the practice of dental assisting to support a uniform dental practice act and to ensure that dental assisting tasks, roles and requirements, which will serve as a model either for dental assistants.</p>

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





Arizona	
<p>Job Title Assigned by State (A-Z)</p> <p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <p>Central Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Allowable Functions</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>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15. Apply fluoride varnish 40. Apply sealants Place interim restorations Instructions under the direction of a licensed dentist following a consultation conducted through radiology. <p>Level of Supervision Not Specified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12, 23, 51, 70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and contouring of amalgamated crowns, bridges, inlays, veneers, etc. by a licensed dentist. The restorative materials used will be determined by the dentist. <p>Under Central Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform coronal polishing procedures. <p>Under Direct Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Remove sutures 23. Apply topical fluoride 24. Apply dental cements and resin cements 25. Apply restorative composites 26. Apply restorative cements 27. DR restorations and temporary cements 28. Remove and replace crown and interim restorations with hand instruments 29. Remove and replace crown and interim restorations with hand instruments 30. Place dental material into a patient's mouth in response to a licensed dentist's instruction. 31. Remove excess cement from stents, crowns, bridges, and orthodontics 32. Remove pontical dressings with hand instruments 33. Prepare a patient for retentive resin and complete denture impressions with hand instruments 34. Place dental material into a patient's mouth in response to a licensed dentist's instruction. 35. Cleanse the supragingival surface of the tooth in preparation for the placement of denture covers, dental care appliances 36. Acid etch procedures 37. Removal of dressings and packs <p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Collect and record information pertaining to dental conditions 3. Collect and record information pertaining to existing dental conditions 4. Take or instruct patients in oral hygiene techniques 5. Perform radiographic procedures, delivery concerning the operation of dental x-ray equipment, and provide oral and dental radiographs relative to specific office treatment

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 TN	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <u>NOT</u> Permitted by Dental Assistants in TN
<p>To perform expanded functions in Tennessee, Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) <i>must</i> earn state certification by completing the requirements for each of the desired expanded functions listed below:</p> <p><u>Perform coronal polishing procedures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete a Board-approved coronal polishing course, including both a written and a clinical exam (to qualify, an individual must be an RDA in Tennessee) or complete a CODA-accredited dental assisting program that included coronal polishing in the curriculum and Receive a certificate in coronal polishing from the Tennessee Board of Dentistry <p><u>Apply sealants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete a Board-approved course in sealant application (to qualify, one must be a current RDA) or be enrolled in a CODA-accredited or TN Board-approved program which offers such a course and Receive a certificate in sealant application from the Board <p><u>Monitor nitrous oxide:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete a Board-approved nitrous oxide monitoring course (to qualify, one must be a current RDA) or be enrolled in a CODA-accredited or TN Board-approved program which offers such a course and Receive a certificate in monitoring nitrous oxide from the Board <p><u>Perform restorative and/or prosthetic functions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a minimum of two years of continuous, full-time registered dental assisting employment in the three years prior to enrolling in course and Complete a Board-approved certification course and Receive a certificate in restorative and/or prosthetic functions from the Board <p>Note: RDAs who have successfully completed a comparable training program in expanded functions in another state may be eligible to apply directly to the Board for an expanded functions certificate without additional training. For details see <i>DANB's State Fact Booklet</i> or contact the Tennessee Board of Dentistry.</p> <hr/> <p>Registered Dental Assistants in Tennessee may perform the procedures listed for this level on the opposite page. To register as an RDA, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be at least 18 years old and Have a high school diploma or GED certificate and Successfully complete BLS for Healthcare Providers, CPR/AED for Professional Rescuers, or equivalent course and Successfully complete the Tennessee Board of Dentistry Ethics and Jurisprudence exam and Apply for registration to the Tennessee Board of Dentistry <hr/> <p>A Practical Dental Assistant is an auxiliary employee of a licensed dentist(s) who is receiving practical chairside dental assisting training from a licensed dentist(s) or is a dental assistant student in an educational program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).</p>	<p>Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) <i>qualified to perform expanded functions</i></p> <hr/> <p>Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p> <hr/> <p>Practical Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p> <hr/> <p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</p> <hr/> <p>Dental Assistant</p> <hr/> <p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist in the state of Tennessee, a dental assistant <i>must</i> hold a certificate in dental radiology from the Tennessee Board of Dentistry. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be a Registered Dental Assistant (<i>see requirements in column at left</i>) <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successfully complete a Tennessee Board-approved radiology certification course (to qualify, one must be a current Tennessee RDA) OR Successfully complete a comparable training program in dental radiology in another state OR Be enrolled in a CODA-accredited or Board-approved dental assisting program that offers a dental radiology course as part of its curriculum OR Hold current DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification OR Pass the Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) component of the DANB CDA exam <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply to the Tennessee Board of Dentistry for state certification in dental radiology <hr/> <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> <hr/> <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>	<p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examination, diagnosis and treatment planning Surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissue, including laser, air abrasion or micro-abrasion procedures, including curettage or root planing Fitting, adjusting and placement of prosthodontic appliances Issuance of prescription medications, medications not authorized by Tennessee law or Board of Dentistry rules, or work authorizations Performance of direct pulp capping, pulpotomy and other endodontic procedures not authorized by Tennessee law or Board of Dentistry rules Approve the final occlusion Placement of sutures Administration of local anesthesia, nitrous oxide, conscious sedation, or general anesthesia Use of a high-speed handpiece intraorally Utilization of laser equipment and technology Diagnosing the need for restorations Preparation/cutting of the tooth or soft tissue Modifying existing structure Removal of caries, bases and liners Diagnosing need for any prosthetic appliance Establishing vertical dimension of occlusion and interocclusal records Delivering and/or adjusting appliance Expose radiographs without state certification (as indicated in the middle column on this page) Expanded restorative or prosthetic functions without certification (as indicated in the column to the far left on this page) Perform coronal polishing without state certification (as indicated in the column to the far left on this page) Apply sealants without state certification (as indicated in the column to the far left) Monitoring nitrous oxide without state certification (as indicated in the column to the far left on this page)

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Job Title According to State of TN	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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Registered
Dental
Assistant
(RDA)
*qualified to
perform
expanded
functions*

Under Direct Supervision*

- 9. Coronal polishing
- 12, 33, 51. Restorative functions (insert, pack, carve and finish amalgam and intracoronal nonmetallic restorations)
- 22. Exposure of dental radiographs (see "Radiography Requirements" section on previous page)
- 40. Application of sealants
- 46. Prosthetic functions (take final impressions for fixed and removable prosthetic appliances)
- 59. Monitoring nitrous oxide

Registered
Dental
Assistant
(RDA)

Under Direct Supervision*

- Those functions that may be delegated to a practical dental assistant under direct supervision (see below)

Unsupervised

- Participate in educational functions involving organized groups or healthcare institutions regarding preventive oral health care

Practical
Dental
Assistant

Under Direct Supervision*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2, 37. The taking and recording of a patient's blood pressure, pulse, temperature, and medical history, and charting of oral conditions 3. Calling in prescriptions to the pharmacist as instructed by the employer/dentist 6. Packing and removing retraction cord, with or without vasoactive chemicals, for restorative dental procedures 12. The placement of amalgam in prepared cavities for condensation by the dentist 13. The removal of sutures and staples 14. Drying canals with absorbent paper points 15. Bending, selecting and pre-sizing arch wires and placing arch wires after final adjustment and approval by the dentist 15. Placement of chain elastics on brackets 15. Placement of exposure chains and attachments 18. The application of topical fluorides 24. The instruction of patients in dietary principles 24. Demonstration of oral hygiene procedures and oral health care regimen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25. The maintenance of instrument and operatory infection control 27. The placement and removal of rubber dam 29. The selection, prefitting, cementation, curing and removing of orthodontic bands or brackets 34. Placement of cavity bases and liners 35, 62. The placement and removal of periodontal dressings 41. The preparation of instrument trays 42. Placement and removal of pre-treatment separators 43. Selecting and pre-fitting of stainless steel crowns or other pre-formed crowns for insertion by the dentist 44, 46. The taking of alginate impressions or any purpose other than permanent restorations 45. The placement and removal of matrices for restoration 48. Irrigating extraction site 49. Performing pulp testing 50, 55. The fabrication, placement and removal of temporary restorations 52. The processing of radiographs, including digital, of the mouth, gums, jaws, teeth or any portion thereof for dental diagnosis 56. The application of topical anesthetics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61. Removal of cement excess from supragingival surface of teeth by hand instruments only 61. The removal of cement from restorations and bands 63, 69. The placement and removal of socket dressings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The taking of dental plaque smears • The removal of ligature and arch wires • Wound care as directed • Placement of springs on wires • Placement of hooks on brackets • Ligation of arch wires to brackets • The taking of oral cytologic smears • Removal of loose or broken bands or brackets • The application of desensitizing agents • Application of tooth conditioners for bonding • Packing of pulpotomy paste • Fitting, adjusting and cementation of correctional appliances • Other duties specifically approved by the Board at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board |
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*Direct Supervision means the continuous presence of a supervising dentist within the physical confines of the dental office when licensed and registered dental hygienists or registered dental assistants perform lawfully assigned duties and functions