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.

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.

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.

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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To qualify as an **Expanded Function Dental Assistant** in Nebraska, one must:

- Hold a valid, current license as an LDA
- Complete a minimum of 1,500 hours of work experience as an LDA
- Complete courses and exams in expanded function dental assisting as approved by the Board
- Pass a jurisprudence exam approved by the Board
- Apply to the Dept. of Health and Human Services for the applicable EFDA permit

To qualify as a **Licensed Dental Assistant** in Nebraska, one must:

- Hold a high school diploma or equivalent
- Graduate from a CODA-accredited dental assisting program
- Complete one year (1,500 hours minimum) of dental assisting experience in the five years preceding application
- Pass DANB's CDA Certification or an equivalent exam approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry
- Pass a jurisprudence exam approved by the Board
- Apply to the Dept. of Health and Human Services for an LDA license

To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Nebraska, a dental assistant must:

- Successfully complete a two-day course approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure
- Pass the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam
- Successfully complete a dental assisting course from a CODA-approved technical program or community college which provides training in dental radiography as part of its curriculum

The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:

- 12, 33, 31. Placing or contouring of a final restoration
- 20. Scaling of teeth, including subgingival regions and root planing with hand and ultrasonic instruments
- Diagnosis and treatment planning
- Surgery on hard or soft tissue
- Administering of local or general anesthetics
- Any other irreversible dental procedure or procedures which require the professional judgment and skill of a licensed dentist
- Any intraoral procedure which would lead to the fabrication of any prosthesis
- Chemical curettage

### Nebraska

**Educational Requirements**

- A dental assistant in Nebraska may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state dental practice act (see opposite page) under the supervision of a licensed dentist. There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assisting.
- Dental assistants who assist in the administration of general anesthesia, deep sedation, moderate sedation or minimal sedation must be currently certified in basic life support skills (BLS) or the equivalent.
- Dental assistants with current and valid certification for cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry may monitor nitrous oxide under indirect supervision of a licensed dentist.

**Note:** All dental assistants must be at least 18 years of age.
### Nebraska

**State-approved 2/7/19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title According to State of NE</th>
<th>Allowable Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</strong>**</td>
<td>(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)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA)</strong>**</td>
<td><strong>The Nebraska Legislature passed a law in the 2017 legislative session authorizing the creation of these categories of dental assistant; the Nebraska Board of Dentistry is in the process of developing rules to regulate these categories.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Under Indirect Supervision** | 12, 33, 51. Place restorative level one simple restorations (one surface)  
12, 33, 51. Place restorative level two complex restorations (multiple surfaces) |
| **Under General Supervision** | 22. Take X-rays (see "Radiography Requirements" on previous page) |

**DANB’s Note on Allowable Dental Assisting Functions.**

In Nebraska, 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.

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**Indirect Supervision:** The licensed dentist authorizes the procedure to be performed by a dental auxiliary and is physically present on the premises when such procedure is being performed.

**General Supervision:** The directing of activities of a dental auxiliary by a licensed dentist, not construed to require the physical presence of the supervisor when directing such activities.
Appendix A: Numbering System for Dental Assisting Functions

The following list of 70 dental assisting tasks was developed by the ADAA/DANB Alliance as part of a study of dental assisting core competencies conducted between 2002 and 2005. These selected tasks were determined to be representative of a broad range of dental assisting core competencies.

The numbered functions listed in the preceding state charts correspond to functions that were included in the DANB/ADAA core competencies study and use language directly from the state’s dental practice act. The numbers are provided to facilitate comparison between and among states. Functions listed with bullets in the preceding charts are part of the state’s practice act but are not specific matches to the functions that were included in the 2002-2005 study.

1. Perform mouth mirror inspection of the oral cavity
2. Chart existing restorations or conditions
3. Phone in prescriptions at the direction of the dentist
4. Receive and prepare patients for treatment, including seating, positioning chair, and placing napkin
5. Complete laboratory authorization forms
6. Place and remove retraction cord
7. Perform routine maintenance of dental equipment
8. Monitor and respond to postsurgical bleeding
9. Perform coronal polishing procedures
10. Apply effective communication techniques with a variety of patients
11. Transfer dental instruments
12. Place amalgam for condensation by the dentist
13. Remove sutures
14. Dry canals
15. Tie in archwires
16. Demonstrate knowledge of ethics/jurisprudence/patient confidentiality
17. Identify features of rotary instruments
18. Apply topical fluoride
19. Select and manipulate gypsums and waxes
20. Perform supragingival scaling
21. Mix dental materials
22. Expose radiographs
23. Evaluate radiographs for diagnostic quality
24. Provide patient preventive education and oral hygiene instruction
25. Perform sterilization and disinfection procedures
26. Provide pre- and post-operative instructions
27. Place and remove dental dam
28. Pour, trim, and evaluate the quality of diagnostic casts
29. Size and place orthodontic bands and brackets
30. Using the concepts of four-handed dentistry, assist with basic restorative procedures, including prosthodontics and restorative dentistry
31. Identify intraoral anatomy
32. Demonstrate understanding of the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard
33. Place, cure and finish composite resin restorations
34. Place liners and bases
35. Place periodontal dressings
36. Demonstrate understanding of the OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard
37. Take and record vital signs
38. Monitor vital signs
39. Clean and polish removable appliances and prostheses
40. Apply pit and fissure sealants
41. Prepare procedural trays/armamentaria set-ups
42. Place orthodontic separators
43. Size and fit stainless steel crowns
44. Take preliminary impressions
45. Place and remove matrix bands
46. Take final impressions
47. Fabricate and place temporary crowns
48. Maintain field of operation during dental procedures through the use of retraction, suction, irrigation, drying, placing and removing cotton rolls, etc.
49. Perform vitality tests
50. Place temporary fillings
51. Carve amalgams
52. Process dental radiographs
53. Mount and label dental radiographs
54. Remove temporary crowns and cements
55. Remove temporary fillings
56. Apply topical anesthetic to the injection site
57. Demonstrate understanding of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines
58. Using the concepts of four-handed dentistry, assist with basic intraoral surgical procedures, including extractions, periodontics, endodontics, and implants
59. Monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia
60. Maintain emergency kit
61. Remove permanent cement from supragingival surfaces
62. Remove periodontal dressings
63. Place post-extraction dressings
64. Fabricate custom trays, to include impression and bleaching trays, and athletic mouthguards
65. Recognize basic medical emergencies
66. Recognize basic dental emergencies
67. Respond to basic medical emergencies
68. Respond to basic dental emergencies
69. Remove post-extraction dressings
70. Place stainless steel crown
An important consideration in the discussion of the delegation of tasks to dental assistants is that of supervision of dental assistants by their dentist-employers. The American Dental Association (ADA) has identified five levels of supervision for dental auxiliaries, including dental assistants, which it defines in its “Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel,” (2010: 505) which is part of its Current Policies, last updated in 2018. Note that “allied dental personnel” refers to dental assistants, dental hygienists, community dental health coordinators and dental laboratory technicians.

The five levels of supervision defined by the ADA are as follows:

**Personal supervision:** A type of supervision in which the dentist is personally operating on a patient and authorizes the allied dental personnel to aid treatment by concurrently performing a supportive procedure.

**Direct supervision:** A type of supervision in which a dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses and treatment plans the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedures and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the allied dental personnel and evaluates their performance before dismissal of the patient.

**Indirect supervision:** A type of supervision in which a dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, has personally diagnosed and treatment planned the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedures, and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the allied dental personnel, and will evaluate the performance of the allied dental personnel.

**General supervision:** A type of supervision in which a dentist is not required to be in the dental office or treatment facility when procedures are provided, but has personally diagnosed and treatment planned the condition to be treated, has personally authorized the procedures, and will evaluate the performance of the allied dental personnel.

**Public Health Supervision:** A type of supervision in which a licensed dental hygienist may provide dental hygiene services, as specified by state law or regulations, when such services are provided as part of an organized community program in various public health settings, as designated by state law, and with general oversight of such programs by a licensed dentist designated by the state.

Furthermore, the ADA’s “Comprehensive Policy Statement on Allied Dental Personnel” stipulates that intraoral expanded functions should be performed by allied dental personnel “under the supervision of a dentist.”

Because the study of dental assisting core competencies undertaken by the ADAA/DANB Alliance did not address the question of supervision, the ADAA/DANB Alliance does not make any recommendations as to the levels of supervision that should be necessary for the delegation of the tasks included in the study to dental assistants. However, the ADAA/DANB Alliance believes it is important to call attention to the fact that, while the ADA has defined supervision levels in the aforementioned policy statement, which governs the ADA’s own activities and the activities of its members, these definitions have not been uniformly adopted by the dental boards of every U.S. state or district.

For the purposes of the attached charts, if a state’s dental practice act specifically defines levels of supervision, the state-specific definition is noted in the footer of the second page of the state chart.