



2019 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: Nebraska



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 2/19/18	
Education/Training/Credential Required	Job Title from Board of AZ	Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)	Dental Assistant
<p>To perform specified restorative functions in order to assist a licensed dentist or a dental assistant, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona Expanded Function - Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements below) and the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the report) Pass the AZ Core Competency Restorative Certificate (see requirements below) and the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the report) Pass the national DANB Restorative Functions and Safety (RFS) exam Pass the national DANB Restorative Functions and Safety (RFS) exam Pass the national DANB Restorative Functions and Safety (RFS) exam Pass the national DANB Restorative Functions and Safety (RFS) exam 	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Restorative Functions Permitted by Dental Assistants in AZ</p> <p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 46. Taking final impressions for any advancing orthodontic appliances, fixed or removable prosthesis. 51. Introral contouring of dental wax on preparation or dies. A procedure which by use of any instrument, appliance, or certified dental technician can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fracture any restorative appliance. • Fracture any orthodontic appliance. • Fracture any removable appliance. • Fracture any fixed appliance. • Fracture any removable appliance. • Fracture any fixed appliance. • Fracture any removable appliance. • Fracture any fixed appliance.
<p>To perform general polishing procedures on natural or artificial teeth, a dental assistant must hold an AZ General Polishing Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass DANB's General Polishing (GP) exam (see requirements below) Pass the national DANB General Polishing (GP) exam Pass the national DANB General Polishing (GP) exam Pass the national DANB General Polishing (GP) exam 	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>General Polishing Functions Permitted by Dental Assistants in AZ</p> <p>The same study utilized a list of 70 job functions which were categorized into three levels of dental assisting core competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 1: Functions in this study that require the national DANB ADAA Core Competencies Study and are indicated by the right arrow in the table. Level 2: Functions in this study that require the national DANB ADAA Core Competencies Study and are indicated by the left arrow in the table. Level 3: Functions in this study that are not specifically mentioned in DANB/ADAA requirements.

Arizona		State approved 2/19/18	
Job Title from State of AZ	Education/Training/Credential Required	Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)	Dental Assistant
<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>
<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>

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 NE	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <u>NOT</u> Permitted by Dental Assistants in NE
<p>To qualify as an Expanded Function Dental Assistant** in Nebraska, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a valid, current license as an LDA AND Complete a minimum of 1,500 hours of work experience as an LDA AND Complete courses and exams in expanded function dental assisting as approved by the Board AND Pass a jurisprudence exam approved by the Board AND Apply to the Dept. of Health and Human Services for the applicable EFDA permit 	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)**</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in the state of Nebraska, a dental assistant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 OR Pass the national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam OR 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 	<p>The following functions are not permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12, 33, 51. 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
<p>To qualify as a Licensed Dental Assistant** in Nebraska, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold a high school diploma or equivalent AND Graduate from a CODA-accredited dental assisting program OR Complete one year (1,500 hours minimum) of dental assisting experience in the five years preceding application AND Pass DANB's CDA Certification or an equivalent exam approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry AND Pass a jurisprudence exam approved by the Board AND Apply to the Dept. of Health and Human Services for an LDA license <p>To perform selected functions, an LDA must complete education and testing approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry and earn a permit in each function (see "Allowable Functions" on opposite page).</p>	<p>Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA)**</p>	<p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)</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>	<p><i>*Please note: The new 2017 law allows some levels of dental assistant to perform these functions, but the Nebraska Board of Dentistry administrative rules have not yet been updated to reflect the scope of practice authorized under the new law.</i></p>
<p>To perform coronal polishing procedures under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist in Nebraska, a dental assistant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate from a CODA-accredited dental assisting program which includes a coronal polishing course OR Complete one year (1,500 hours minimum) of clinical work experience as a dental assistant and a Nebraska Board-approved course in polishing procedures 	<p>Dental Assistant <i>qualified in coronal polishing</i></p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<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>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Note: All dental assistants must be at least 18 years of age.</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>		

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Job Title According to State of NE	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)**	<p>**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.</p> <p><u>Under Indirect Supervision*</u> 12, 33, 51. Place restorative level one simple restorations (one surface) 12, 33, 51. Place restorative level two complex restorations (multiple surfaces)</p>		
Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA)**	<p><u>Under Indirect Supervision*</u> 46. Take dental impressions for fixed prostheses (<i>with education, exam and permit in the function</i>) 46. Take dental impressions and make minor adjustments for removable prostheses (<i>with education, exam and permit in the function</i>) 59. Monitor and administer nitrous oxide analgesia (<i>with education, exam and permit in the function</i>) 70. Cement prefabricated fixed prostheses on primary teeth (<i>with education, exam and permit in the function</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All procedures authorized for a dental assistant 		
Dental Assistant qualified in coronal polishing	<p><u>Under Indirect Supervision*</u> 9. Perform coronal polishing procedures</p>		
Dental Assistant	<table border="0"> <tr> <td data-bbox="284 1543 787 1753"> <p><u>Under Indirect Supervision*</u> 56. Place topical local anesthesia 59. Monitor nitrous oxide (<i>see requirements on previous page</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A licensed dentist may delegate to dental assistants only those procedures for which the dentist exercises supervision and assumes full responsibility </td> <td data-bbox="820 1543 1502 1648"> <p><u>Under General Supervision*</u> 22. Take X-rays (see "Radiography Requirements" on previous page)</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p><u>DANB's Note on Allowable Dental Assisting Functions</u></p> <p>In Nebraska, all dental assistants may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform infection control and occupational safety procedures • Perform other duties not specified by this state's dental practice act <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>	<p><u>Under Indirect Supervision*</u> 56. Place topical local anesthesia 59. Monitor nitrous oxide (<i>see requirements on previous page</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A licensed dentist may delegate to dental assistants only those procedures for which the dentist exercises supervision and assumes full responsibility 	<p><u>Under General Supervision*</u> 22. Take X-rays (see "Radiography Requirements" on previous page)</p>
<p><u>Under Indirect Supervision*</u> 56. Place topical local anesthesia 59. Monitor nitrous oxide (<i>see requirements on previous page</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A licensed dentist may delegate to dental assistants only those procedures for which the dentist exercises supervision and assumes full responsibility 	<p><u>Under General Supervision*</u> 22. Take X-rays (see "Radiography Requirements" on previous page)</p>		

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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 post-surgical 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

Appendix B: Levels of Supervision

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 ADA/DANB Alliance did not address the question of supervision, the ADA/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 ADA/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.



Measuring Dental Assisting Excellence®

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