



# 2019 Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants: New Mexico



## 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 Assigned by State (AZ)	Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)	Dental Assistant
<p>To perform specified restorative functions in a dental office, a dental assistant must hold an Arizona Expanded Function - Restorative Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold the AZ Core Competency Certificate (see requirements below) and the AZ Restorative Certificate (see requirements in the report)</li> <li>Pass the AZ Core Competency Certificate (see requirements in the report)</li> <li>Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam</li> <li>Pass the national DANB Restorative Procedure Certificate, issued by DANB</li> <li>Be currently certified in another U.S. state as a dental assistant with successful completion of written and clinical dental radiography (ADR)</li> <li>Be an Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) member in good standing and have the Arizona Restorative Procedure Certificate, issued by the ASBDE</li> </ul> <p>These individuals may receive dental restorative procedures in a licensed dental environment form</p> <p>ASBDE: Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners</p>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Restography Procedures</p> <p>Functions NOT 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"> <li>46. Taking final impressions for any advancing orthodontic appliances, fixed or removable prosthesis.</li> <li>51. Introral carriage of dental radiograph or prosthesis.</li> <li>A procedure which by use of ionizing radiation can produce:</li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final jaw registrations</li> <li>• Archiving radiographic impressions</li> <li>• An irreversible procedure</li> </ul> </ul> <p>* Under a new Arizona law passed in the 2018 legislative session, a dental assistant who has met the requirements for an Expanded Function Dental Assistant listed in the dental practice act may perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations.</p>
<p>To perform general polishing procedures in a dental office, a dental assistant must hold an AZ General Polishing Certificate. To qualify, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pass DANB's General Polishing (GP) exam (see requirements in the report)</li> <li>Pass the AZ Core Competency Certificate (see requirements in the report)</li> <li>Pass the national DANB Restorative Procedure Certificate, issued by DANB</li> <li>Be currently certified in another U.S. state as a dental assistant with successful completion of written and clinical dental radiography (ADR)</li> <li>Be an Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners (ASBDE) member in good standing and have the Arizona Restorative Procedure Certificate, issued by the ASBDE</li> </ul> <p>These individuals may receive dental restorative procedures in a licensed dental environment form</p> <p>ASBDE: Arizona State Board of Dental Examiners</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Restography Procedures</p> <p>Functions NOT 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"> <li>46. Taking final impressions for any advancing orthodontic appliances, fixed or removable prosthesis.</li> <li>51. Introral carriage of dental radiograph or prosthesis.</li> <li>A procedure which by use of ionizing radiation can produce:</li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final jaw registrations</li> <li>• Archiving radiographic impressions</li> <li>• An irreversible procedure</li> </ul> </ul> <p>* Under a new Arizona law passed in the 2018 legislative session, a dental assistant who has met the requirements for an Expanded Function Dental Assistant listed in the dental practice act may perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations.</p>

Arizona		State approved 3/19/18	
Job Title Assigned by State (AZ)	Education/Training/Credential Required	Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)	Dental Assistant
<p>Under General Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Apply fluoride varnish</li> <li>40. Apply sealants</li> <li>41. Place interim restorations</li> <li>42. Place permanent restorations</li> <li>43. Place orthodontic appliances</li> <li>44. Place orthodontic retainers</li> <li>45. Place orthodontic archwires</li> <li>46. Place orthodontic bands</li> <li>47. Place orthodontic brackets</li> <li>48. Place orthodontic elastics</li> <li>49. Place orthodontic wax</li> <li>50. Place orthodontic separators</li> <li>51. Place orthodontic spacers</li> <li>52. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>53. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>54. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>55. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>56. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>57. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>58. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>59. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>60. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>61. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>62. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>63. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>64. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>65. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>66. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>67. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>68. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>69. Place orthodontic tubes</li> <li>70. Place orthodontic tubes</li> </ul>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Restography Procedures</p> <p>Functions NOT 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"> <li>46. Taking final impressions for any advancing orthodontic appliances, fixed or removable prosthesis.</li> <li>51. Introral carriage of dental radiograph or prosthesis.</li> <li>A procedure which by use of ionizing radiation can produce:</li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final jaw registrations</li> <li>• Archiving radiographic impressions</li> <li>• An irreversible procedure</li> </ul> </ul> <p>* Under a new Arizona law passed in the 2018 legislative session, a dental assistant who has met the requirements for an Expanded Function Dental Assistant listed in the dental practice act may perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations.</p>
<p>Under Direct Supervision*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12. 23. 51. 70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and completion of unbandaged crowns, bridges, partial dentures, dentures, or denture relines.</li> <li>13. 23. 51. 70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and completion of unbandaged crowns, bridges, partial dentures, dentures, or denture relines.</li> <li>14. 23. 51. 70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and completion of unbandaged crowns, bridges, partial dentures, dentures, or denture relines.</li> <li>15. 23. 51. 70. Perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations or the placement and completion of unbandaged crowns, bridges, partial dentures, dentures, or denture relines.</li> <li>16. 23. 51. 70. 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Introral carriage of dental radiograph or prosthesis.</li> <li>A procedure which by use of ionizing radiation can produce:</li> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final jaw registrations</li> <li>• Archiving radiographic impressions</li> <li>• An irreversible procedure</li> </ul> </ul> <p>* Under a new Arizona law passed in the 2018 legislative session, a dental assistant who has met the requirements for an Expanded Function Dental Assistant listed in the dental practice act may perform placement, contouring and finishing of direct restorations.</p>	

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.

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 NM	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <b>NOT</b> Permitted by Dental Assistants in NM
<p>To earn NM certification as an expanded function dental auxiliary (EFDA), one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete an accepted EFDA course in a program approved by the board or accredited by CODA, <b>OR</b> Have a minimum of five years, 1000 hours per year, continuous employment as a dental assistant or dental hygienist <b>and</b> complete a course of study in subject areas prescribed by the board, including a post-test approved by the board <b>and</b> obtain a recommendation for EFDA certification from a supervising dentist</li> <li><b>AND</b> earn state certification in radiography, rubber cup coronal polishing and application of topical fluoride and pit and fissure sealant expanded functions*</li> <li><b>AND</b> pass a clinical exam accepted by the board for EFDA certification</li> <li><b>AND</b> Earn a 75% score on the NM jurisprudence exam</li> <li><b>AND</b> Apply for an apprenticeship permit from the NM Board of Dental Health Care</li> <li><b>AND</b> Complete an apprenticeship within 180 days</li> <li><b>AND</b> Return permit and signed affidavit to NM Board of Dental Health Care, which will then issue EFDA certificate</li> </ul> <p>* Note: A new rule effective 3/13/18 specifies that all current EFDA permit holders must earn the four state certificates in expanded functions no later than 7/1/19. EFDA permits will suspend automatically if the expanded functions certifications are not current, and once they are earned, the EFDA permit will become valid until its regular expiration date.</p>	<p>Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary (EFDA)</p>	<p>Expanded Functions Dental Assistant (EFDA)</p>	<p>To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in New Mexico, a dental assistant <b>must be certified</b>. To obtain this certification, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study by independent preparation or in a training course on radiation health and safety within the past 36 months</li> <li><b>AND</b> Have assisted with or observed five cases of full mouth series intraoral radiographs (or five extraoral radiographs, if applying for limited certificate)</li> <li><b>AND</b> Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam</li> <li><b>AND</b> Apply to the NM Board of Dental Health Care for a training permit, valid for six months</li> <li><b>AND</b> Pass a state radiography clinical exam, within six months of passing the DANB RHS exam</li> <li><b>AND</b> Pass the New Mexico jurisprudence exam (take-home)</li> <li><b>AND</b> Apply to the NM Board of Dental Health Care for certification to perform radiography</li> </ul>	<p>The following functions are <b>not</b> permitted by any level of dental assistant:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final impressions, to include physical and digital impressions, for restorations or prosthetic appliances*</li> <li>Removal of, or addition to, the hard or soft tissue of the oral cavity</li> <li>Diagnosis and treatment planning</li> <li>Initial fitting and adaptation of prostheses</li> <li>Final fitting, adaptation, seating and cementation of any fixed or removable dental appliance or restoration, including but not limited to inlays, crowns, space maintainers, habit devices, anti-snoring or sleep apnea appliances, or splints</li> <li>Irrigation and medication of canals, cone try-in, reaming, filing or filling of root canals</li> <li>Other services defined as the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene</li> <li>Bleaching or whitening teeth without the direct or indirect supervision of a dentist</li> <li>Laser-assisted non-surgical periodontal treatment</li> </ol>
<p>Holders of state-certification in dental assisting expanded functions and EFDAs must have formal training in infection control from a course approved in accordance with New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care rules and regulations.</p>		<p>DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) or Registered Dental Assistant</p>		
<p>To perform <b>expanded functions</b> under the general supervision of a licensed dentist in New Mexico, a <b>dental assistant</b> must earn <b>state certification</b>. To qualify, one must:</p> <p><u>Rubber cup coronal polishing and application of topical fluoride:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study by independent preparation or in a training course in the functions <b>and</b> assist with/observe five cases of rubber cup coronal polishing on children and adults and five applications of topical fluoride <b>and</b></li> <li>Pass DANB's national Coronal Polish (CP) exam and DANB's Topical Fluoride (TF) exam <b>and</b></li> <li>Apply to the NM Board of Dental Health Care for advanced certification in coronal polishing and application of topical fluoride <b>and</b></li> <li>Pass the state jurisprudence exam (take-home) <b>and</b></li> <li>Perform rubber cup coronal polishing on five adults and children and application of topical fluoride on five children while being personally observed by a dentist, dental hygienist, or a dental assistant certified in rubber cup coronal polishing and topical fluoride.</li> </ul> <p><u>Pit and Fissure Sealants:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have 2,080 hours of dental assisting chairside experience in the two years prior to application <b>and</b></li> <li>Study by independent preparation or in a training course in the function <b>and</b></li> <li>Assist with/observe 12 pit and fissure sealant applications <b>and</b></li> <li>Pass DANB's national Sealants (SE) exam <b>and</b></li> <li>Apply for advanced certification in pit and fissure sealants to the NM Board of Dental Health Care <b>and</b></li> <li>Pass the NM jurisprudence exam (take-home) <b>and</b></li> <li>Apply pit and fissure sealants on five patients while being personally observed by a licensed dentist or dental hygienist</li> </ul>	<p>Dental Assistant with state certification in expanded functions</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>*This task is prohibited for dental assistants and dental assistants with state certification in expanded functions. EFDAs are permitted, under direct supervision, to take impressions, including digital impressions, for permanent fixed or removable prosthetics involving single teeth; EFDAs are prohibited from taking final impressions for multiple units of crowns, bridges, cast framework, partial dentures, or full dentures final impressions.</p>
<p>The DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification automatically qualifies a dental assistant to apply for state certification for each of these expanded functions. A dental assistant who is certified to perform one or more expanded functions in another state with requirements not less stringent than those in New Mexico may apply for state certification based on credentials. See DANB's 2019 State Fact Booklet or contact the New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care for requirements.</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 <b>dental assistant</b> in New Mexico is an individual who may perform basic supportive dental procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist (see notes on opposite page). There are no education or training requirements for this level of dental assistant.</p>	<p>Dental Assistant</p>	<p>Entry Level Dental Assistant</p>		

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Job Title  
According to  
State of NM

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  
Auxiliary  
(EFDA)

**Under Direct Supervision\***

- 12, 51. Place and shape direct restorative materials into cavity preparations completed by a dentist, using instrumentation as necessary and proper for this purpose
- 43. Perform preliminary fitting and shaping of stainless steel crowns which shall undergo final evaluation and cementation by a dentist
- 46. Take impressions for permanent fixed or removable prosthetics involving single teeth, to include digital impressions; these include single crowns or single tooth replacement prosthetics; EFDAs shall not take final impressions for multiple units of single crowns, bridges, cast framework partial dentures or full dentures final impressions
- 47, 50. Cement permanent or provisional restorations with temporary or provisional cement, provided the permanent cementation will be completed or monitored by the dentist within six months
- 50. Place temporary or sedative restorations in open carious lesions after hand excavation of gross decay and debris; if pain is perceived by the patient, dentist shall evaluate lesion before completion by EFDA. The EFDA shall NOT use any automated method to clean out the lesion or prepare the tooth, including but not limited to high speed, slow speed, air abrasion, ultrasonic, laser etc.
- 50. Place temporary or sedative restorative material into unprepared tooth fractures as a palliative measure; the EFDA shall NOT use any automated method to clean out the fracture or prepare the tooth, including but not limited to high speed, slow speed, air abrasion, ultrasonic, laser etc.
- 61. Remove residual orthodontic bracket or band cement or resin from teeth after the brackets or bands have been removed by the dentist, or to prepare the tooth or teeth for re-cementation of a debonded bracket or band, using instrumentation as necessary and proper for this purpose

**Under General Supervision\***

- 40. Place pit and fissure sealants (under supervision as certification or licensure allows)
- 47. In emergency situation, recement temporary or permanent crowns or bridges using provisional cement when instructed to do so by the dentist, provided the permanent cementation will be completed or monitored by the dentist within six months

*Note: EFDA duties are allowed under direct supervision of a NM licensed dentist provided the dentist has prepared the cavity or tooth for the restorative procedure; instructed the EFDA on the particular elements of the individual case; fully examined and evaluated the procedure carried out by the EFDA, and corrected or replaced any deficiency found in the EFDA work before allowing the patient to leave the treatment facility; the dentist is ultimately responsible for the quality of the final restorative procedure carried out by the EFDA; and not more than two EFDAs, performing expanded functions, per licensed dentist are present in office.)*

**Note:** This state allows individuals certified as Community Dental Health Coordinators to perform a separate set of advanced restorative, palliative and educational functions. Please see the separate chart for New Mexico CDHC functions on the pages that follow.

**Under General Supervision\***

- 9. Rubber cup coronal polishing
- 18. Application of topical fluoride
- 22. Place and expose dental radiographs
- 40. Pit and fissure sealants

**Note:** New Mexico rules indicate that collaborative practice dental hygienists may work with and supervise dental assistants, including dental assistants certified to perform these expanded functions.

**Under Indirect Supervision\***

- 9. Rubber cup coronal polishing
  - 18. Application of topical fluoride
  - 40. Pit and fissure sealant application
  - 59. Administer nitrous oxide with the dentist's authorization
    - Any basic supportive dental procedure, not excluded elsewhere in rule or in statute
- Note:** Rubber cup coronal polishing, application of topical fluoride and pit and fissure sealants must be approved by the dentist or dental hygienist upon completion.

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

In the state of New Mexico, 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.

Dental  
Assistant  
with state  
certification  
in expanded  
functions

Dental  
Assistant

**\*General Supervision:** Authorization by a dentist of the procedures to be used by a dental assistant or expanded functions dental auxiliary and the execution of the procedures in accordance with a dentist's diagnosis and treatment plan at a time the dentist is not physically present and in facilities as designated by rule of the board  
**Indirect Supervision:** A dentist, or in certain settings a dental hygienist or dental assistant certified in expanded functions is present in the treatment facility while authorized treatments are being performed by a dental assistant  
**Direct supervision:** The process under which an act is performed when a dentist licensed pursuant to the Dental Health Care Act: (1) is physically present throughout the performance of the act; (2) orders, controls and accepts full professional responsibility for the act performed; and (3) evaluates and approves the procedure performed before the patient departs the care setting

Education/Training/ Credential Required	Job Title According to State of NM	Proposed Standardized National Job Titles (see below)	Radiography Requirements	Functions <u>NOT</u> Permitted by CDHCs in NM
<p>To work as a Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC) in New Mexico, one must obtain certification from the New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care.</p> <p>To qualify, an applicant must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have a high school diploma or equivalent, or a college-level degree</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have New Mexico certification in radiography, rubber cup coronal polishing, and application of topical fluoride and pit and fissure sealant expanded functions (see p. 92 of this publication for requirements)</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Complete the New Mexico jurisprudence exam with a score of at least 75%</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Successfully complete a CDHC program approved by the NM Board of Dental Health Care</li> </ul> <p>CDHCs must have formal training in infection control from a course approved in accordance with New Mexico Board of Dental Health Care rules and regulations.</p>	<p>Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC)</p> <hr/> <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>Community Dental Health Coordinator (CDHC)</p> <hr/> <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 in New Mexico, a Community Dental Health Coordinator <b>must be certified</b>. To obtain this certification, one must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study by independent preparation or in a training course on radiation health and safety within the past 36 months</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Have assisted with or observed five cases of full mouth series intraoral radiographs (or five extraoral radiographs, if applying for limited certificate)</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pass the national DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Apply to the NM Board of Dental Health Care for a training permit, valid for six months</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pass a state radiography clinical exam, within six months of passing the DANB RHS exam</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Pass the New Mexico jurisprudence exam (take-home)</li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Apply to the NM Board of Dental Health Care for certification to perform radiography</li> </ul> <p>The CDHC workforce model was developed by the American Dental Association (ADA) to address access to care issues among underserved U.S. populations. Currently, New Mexico is the only state that has formally adopted the Community Dental Health Coordinator model.</p> <p>The CDHC model contemplates multiple career paths for those desiring to work as Community Dental Health Coordinators. For dental assistants who may aspire to the CDHC designation, the career ladder would contain these standardized job titles that appear at left.</p> <p>Some functions in the ADA/DANB Alliance's dental assisting Core Competencies Study are included in the scope of practice for CDHCs. 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 for this workforce member 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 matched to DANB/ADAA research.</p>	<p>CDHC may not perform any other procedure, duty or function under any level of supervision that is not expressly listed as allowable.</p>

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Job Title  
According to  
State of NM

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)

Community  
Dental Health  
Coordinator  
(CDHC)

**General Supervision\***

- 9. Rubber cup coronal polishing (not to be represented as a prophylaxis)\*\*
- 18. Topical application of fluorides\*\*
- 22, 52. Expose and develop necessary radiographs as ordered by the supervising dentist or as established in protocol by a supervising dentist
- 40. Application of pit and fissure sealants\*\*
- 50. Place temporary and sedative restorative materials in unexcavated carious lesions and unprepared tooth fractures
  - Take a complete health and dental history
  - Observe and transmit patient data through teledentistry means to a dentist
  - Transmit prescription or medication orders on the direct order of a dentist
  - Act as an advocate for patients and the community in accessing dental care
- Provide the following limited palliative procedures:
  - 24. Instruct the patient on brushing, flossing, gingival massage or cleaning for gingival inflammation or infection
    - Application of hot/cold compresses to the face and mouth
    - Instruct patient in the use of various rinses containing salt, sodium bicarbonate, chlorhexidine, etc. as ordered by the dentist
    - Place avulsed teeth in the proper preservation solution for transport to a dentist
    - Apply pressure compresses to intraoral wounds
    - Perform any other palliative procedures as directly instructed by the supervising dentist, and within the scope of practice of the CDHC

\*\* when previously authorized by the supervising dentist or dental hygienist and cavitation of the enamel is not present

\*General Supervision: Authorization by a dentist of the procedures to be used by a community dental health coordinator and the execution of the procedures in accordance with the dentist's diagnosis and treatment plan at a time the dentist is not physically present and in the facility as designated by rules of the board



# 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.**



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