



CADAT

Dental Assisting Duties Effective January 1, 2010

The following is a table of allowable duties and functions effective January 1, 2010 for unlicensed dental assistants (DA), Registered Dental Assistants (RDA), Registered Dental Assistants in Extended Functions (RDAEF) Dental Sedation Assistant Permit Holders (DSAP), and Orthodontic Assistant Permit Holders (OAP) in California. The table is established in a format identified by the area of dentistry where the function is generally performed and is further defined by the use of the following symbols/definitions:

Symbol:	Definition:
D	Direct Supervision – an assistant may perform the function under the direct supervision of a dentist based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who must be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of the function. The function must be checked and approved by the supervising dentist prior to dismissal of the patient from the office.
G	General Supervision – an assistant may perform the duty under the general supervision of a licensed dentist based on instructions given by the dentist but does not require the physical presence of the dentist during the performance of those procedures.
^	<p>Supervision to be determined by the dentist – the supervising licensed dentist shall be responsible for determining whether each authorized procedure performed by a Registered Dental Assistant should be performed under general or direct supervision.</p> <p>If a Registered Dental Assistant is employed by or practicing in a primary care clinic or specialty clinic licensed pursuant to Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code, in a primary care clinic exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code, or a clinic owned and operated by a hospital that maintains the primary contract with a county government to fill the county’s role under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, the following shall apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A dental assistant, Registered Dental Assistant, or Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions may perform any extraoral duty under the direct supervision of a Registered Dental Hygienist or Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice. (b) A Registered Dental Assistant or a Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions may perform the following procedures under the direct supervision of a Registered Dental Hygienist or a Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Coronal polishing. (2) Application of topical fluoride. (3) Application of sealants, after providing evidence to the board of having completed a board-approved course in that procedure.

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Symbol:	Definition:
SS	Special Setting function – the Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions may perform this function under the direction of a licensed dentist, Registered Dental Hygienist, or Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice in a school-based community health project setting. Only an RDAEF II licensed after 1/1/2010 may perform the duty. Those licensed as an RDAEF I (prior to 1/1/2010) shall complete Board-approved education and examination as a RDAEF II in order to legally perform the duty.
*	RDAEF I – the duty identified in this area is a function that may be performed by both a Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions I (licensed prior to 1/1/2010) and a Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions II (licensed after 1/1/2010).
**	RDAEF II – the duty identified in this area is a function that may only be performed by a Registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions II (licensed after 1/1/2010). Those licensed as a RDAEF I (prior to 1/1/2010) will not be allowed to perform the function unless post-graduate education and examination are successfully completed to advance to the new duties and functions of an RDAEF II.
N	Not an allowable duty.

PERFORMANCE AREA	DUTY/FUNCTION	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A P	D S A P
Assessment:	Conduct preliminary evaluation of the patient's oral health, including but not limited to, charting, intraoral and extra-oral evaluation of soft tissue, classifying occlusion and myofunctional evaluation	N	N	D**	N	N
Assessment:	Perform oral health assessments in school-based, community health project settings under the direction of a dentist, registered dental hygienist, or registered dental hygienist in alternative practice.	N	N	SS	N	N
Endodontic:	Size and fit endodontic master points and accessory points	N	N	D**	N	N
Endodontic:	Fit (only) trial endodontic filling points	N	N	D*	N	N
Endodontic:	Pulp vitality testing and recording of findings	N	^	^	N	N
Endodontic:	Dry endodontically treated canals using absorbent paper points	N	^	^	N	N
Endodontic:	Cement endodontic master points and accessory points	N	N	D**	N	N
Endodontic:	Formulate indirect patterns for endodontic post and core castings	N	N	D*	N	N
Operative:	Perform radiography procedures (with certification)	G	G	G	D	D
Operative:	Perform intraoral and extraoral photography	G	G	G	D	D
Operative:	Take facebow transfers and bite registrations	D	^	^	D	D
Operative:	Place and remove rubber dams or other isolation devices	D	^	^	D	D
Operative:	Place, wedge, and remove matrices for restorative procedures	D	^	^	N	N

PERFORMANCE AREA	DUTY/FUNCTION	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A P	D S A P
Operative:	Use of automated caries detection devices and materials to gather information for diagnosis by the dentist	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Obtain intraoral images for computer-aided design (CAD), milled restorations	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Cure restorative or orthodontic materials in operative site with a light-curing device	D	^	^	D	D
Operative:	Place bases, liners, and bonding agents	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Adjust dentures extra-orally	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Take final impressions for tooth-borne removable prosthesis	N	N	D**	N	N
Operative:	Take final impressions for permanent indirect restorations	N	N	D	N	N
Operative:	Take intraoral impressions for all non-prosthetic appliances	D	^	^	D	D
Operative:	Apply non-aerosol and non-caustic topical agents	D	^	^	D	D
Operative:	Apply topical fluoride (includes varnishes)	D	^	^	D	D
Operative:	Apply and activate bleaching agents using a non-laser light-curing device	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Chemically prepare teeth for bonding	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Place, adjust, and finish direct provisional restorations	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Fabricate, adjust, cement, and remove indirect provisional restorations, including stainless steel crowns when used as a provisional restoration	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Remove excess cement from surfaces of teeth with a hand instrument	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Polish coronal surfaces of the teeth	N	^	^	N	N
Operative:	Polish and contour existing amalgam restorations	N	N	D**	N	N
Operative:	Place, contour, finish, and adjust all direct restorations	N	N	D**	N	N
Operative:	Cord retraction of gingivae for impression procedures	N	N	D*	N	N
Operative:	Adjust and cement permanent indirect restorations	N	N	D**	N	N
Operative:	Remove excess cement from subgingival tooth surfaces with a hand instrument	N	N	D*	N	N

PERFORMANCE AREA	DUTY/FUNCTION	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A P	D S A P
Operative/ Sedation:	Assist in the administration of nitrous oxide when used for analgesia or sedation. A dental assistant <u>shall not start the administration of the gases</u> and shall not adjust the flow of the gases unless instructed to do so by the supervising <u>licensed dentist who shall be present at the patient's chairside during the implementation of these instructions</u> . This paragraph shall not be construed to prevent any person from taking appropriate action in the event of a medical emergency.	D	^	^	D	D
Operative/ Preventive:	The application of pit and fissure sealants (requires licensure or additional certification)	N	^	^	N	N
Orthodontics:	Prepare teeth for bonding, and select, preposition, and cure orthodontic brackets after their position has been approved by the supervising licensed dentist.	N	N	N	D	N
Orthodontics:	Size, fit, and cement orthodontic bands	N	N	N	D	N
Orthodontics:	Remove orthodontic bands	N	^	^	N	N
Orthodontics:	Remove only orthodontic brackets and attachments with removal of the bonding material by the supervising licensed dentist	N	N	N	D	N
Orthodontics:	Remove orthodontic bands and remove excess cement from supragingival surfaces of teeth with a hand instrument	N	N	N	D	N
Orthodontics:	Place ligature ties and ligate archwires	N	^	^	D	N
Orthodontics:	Perform measurements for the purposes of orthodontic treatment	D	^	^	D	D
Orthodontics:	Examine orthodontic appliances	D	^	^	D	D
Orthodontics:	Place and remove orthodontic separators	D	^	^	D	D
Orthodontics:	Remove ligature ties and archwires	D	^	^	D	D
Orthodontics:	After adjustment by the dentist, examine and seat removable orthodontic appliances and deliver care instructions to the patient.	D	^	^	D	D
Orthodontics:	Remove excess cement with an ultrasonic scaler from supragingival surfaces of teeth undergoing orthodontic treatment (* a RDA or RDAEF must have completed a Board-approved education program or course to perform this function)	N	^	^	D	N

PERFORMANCE AREA	DUTY/FUNCTION	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A P	D S A P
Patient Monitoring:	Monitor patient sedation, <u>limited to reading and transmitting information from the monitor display</u> during the intraoperative phase of surgery for electrocardiogram waveform, carbon dioxide and end tidal carbon dioxide concentrations, respiratory cycle data, continuous noninvasive blood pressure data or pulse arterial oxygen saturation measurements, for the purpose of interpretation and evaluation	D	^	^	D	D
Patient Monitoring:	Monitor patients undergoing conscious sedation or general anesthesia <u>utilizing data from noninvasive instrumentation such as pulse oximeters, electrocardiograms, capnography, and blood pressure, pulse, and respiration rate monitoring devices.</u> Evaluation of the condition of a sedated patient shall remain the responsibility of the dentist or other licensed health care professional authorized to administer conscious sedation or general anesthesia, who shall be at the patient's chairside while conscious sedation or general anesthesia is being administered	N	N	N	N	D
Patient Monitoring:	Place patient monitoring sensors	D	^	^	D	D
Radiology:	Operate dental radiography equipment for the purpose of oral radiography if the dental assistant has complied with the requirements of Section 1656 (certification through a Board-approved course)	G	G	G	D	D
Surgical:	Place periodontal dressings	N	^	^	N	N
Surgical:	Remove periodontal dressings	D	^	^	D	D
Surgical:	Place post-extraction dressings after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist	N	^	^	N	N
Surgical:	Remove post-extraction dressings after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist	D	^	^	D	D
Surgical:	Remove sutures after inspection of the site by the dentist	D	^	^	D	D
Surgical:	Removal of intravenous lines	N	N	N	N	D
Surgical:	Drug identification and draw, limited to identification of appropriate medications, ampoule and vial preparation, and withdrawing drugs of correct amount as verified by the supervising licensed dentist	N	N	N	N	D

PERFORMANCE AREA	DUTY/FUNCTION	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A P	D S A P
Surgical/ Sedation:	Add drugs, medications, and fluids to intravenous lines using a syringe, provided that a supervising licensed dentist is present at the patient's chairside, limited to determining patency of intravenous line, selection of injection port, syringe insertion into injection port, occlusion of intravenous line and blood aspiration, line release and injection of drugs for appropriate time interval. The exception to this duty is that the initial dose of a drug or medication shall be administered by the supervising licensed dentist	N	N	N	N	D
Miscellaneous:	Extra-oral duties or procedures specified by the supervising licensed dentist, provided that these duties or procedures meet the definition of a basic supportive procedure	G	G	G	G	G
Miscellaneous:	Mouth-mirror inspections of the oral cavity, to include charting of obvious lesions, existing restorations, and missing teeth	N	^	^	N	N

Notes:

- 1) A Registered Dental Assistant is allowed to perform all the functions of an unlicensed dental assistant as well as all the duties of a licensed RDA under the supervision level determined by the dentist.
- 2) A permit holder as an Orthodontic Assistant may perform all the duties of an unlicensed dental assistant under Direct Supervision.
- 3) A permit holder in Dental Sedation Assistant may perform all the duties of an unlicensed dental assistant under Direct Supervision.
- 4) A registered Dental Assistant in Extended Functions may perform all the duties of an unlicensed assistant and a Registered Dental Assistant under the same supervision levels as set forth in both categories.