

Georgia

Allowable and Prohibited Duties for Dental Assistants

At-a-glance information includes a dental assisting career ladder and job titles, radiography requirements, education and exam requirements, delegable functions and supervision levels, and prohibited functions.

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 annually or when changes occur regarding the accuracy and currency of this information. To verify, or if you have any questions, please contact your state's dental board.



INSIDE:

- State requirements and functions chart
- Appendix A: information about numbering system
- Appendix B: information about supervision levels for dental assistants



State Career Ladder

There are two recognized levels of dental assistants in Georgia. See the following pages for details about requirements and allowed functions for each level. Numbers for each level are provided for internal reference and do not correspond to specific state designations.



2 Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA)

1 Dental Assistant

State Radiography Requirements

In order to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist in Georgia, a dental assistant must complete a minimum of six hours of instruction, in the content areas defined in the Georgia Department of Human Services' x-ray requirements*.

Instruction should begin within 30 days of initial employment and be completed no more than 90 days after employment begins. A record of training must be maintained by the employer.

A dental assistant who shows written proof of completed x-ray training is considered to have satisfied the requirements of the Department of Human Services.

**Note: The DALE Foundation's DANB RHS Review course meets the requirements of the Georgia Department of Community Health regulation 111-8-90-.04, X-Rays in the Healing Arts.*

Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in Georgia

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

- Utilize laser equipment and technology
- Utilize intraorally micro etching and/or air polishing equipment and technologies
- Any operations catalogued as dental hygiene treatments
- The administration of any medication or drugs given to a patient through phlebotomy and venipuncture procedures



1 Dental Assistant

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

A dental assistant in Georgia may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state dental practice act and by rule of the Georgia Board of Dentistry under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. To perform the following functions, one must:

Coronal Polishing (“Rubber Cup Propphy”)

To use rubber cup prophy on primary dentition, a dental assistant with at least one year of prior chairside experience or a graduate of an approved dental assisting program is eligible to attend an 8-hour course of study approved by the Georgia Board of Dentistry,

Note: The Board has outlined course curriculum and eligibility requirements in an addendum to its policy manual)

Phlebotomy and Venipuncture

A dental assistant must complete Board-approved training in phlebotomy, intravenous access, infection control, the handling of any associated medical or dental emergencies, and any other safety related topics required by the Board before performing phlebotomy and venipuncture procedures.

Sedation and General Anesthesia

During the administration of deep sedation/general anesthesia in the dental office or a site approved by the Board, all staff must be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation at the basic life support level given by a board-approved sponsor and shall complete board approved training on the applicable procedures, protocols, patient monitoring techniques, equipment, and any other safety related topics required by the board.

Allowable Functions

Functions with numbers correspond to functions included in a 2002-2005 study of dental assisting core competencies. See page 11 for more information.

Under Direct Supervision*

9. Use a rubber cup prophy on a patient with primary dentition** (see note below)
13. Remove sutures (other than wire sutures)
14. Dry canals with absorbent points and place soothing medications (not to include endodontic irrigation); and place and remove temporary stopping with non-mechanical hand instruments only
15. Select, pre-size and seat orthodontic arch wires with brackets which have been placed by the dentist
15. Cut and tuck ligatures, remove ligatures and arch wires, remove loose or broken bands
22. Place and expose radiographs with such training as may be required by law
27. Place and remove rubber dams
29. Select and pre-size orthodontic bands which initially must be seated by the dentist
42. Place and remove pre-treatment separators
44. Make impressions diagnostic models and opposing models
45. Place matrix bands and wedges
47. Fabricate extraorally temporary crowns and bridges
- 47, 50. Cement temporary crowns and bridges with intermediate cement
50. Place intracoronal temporary restorations using intermediate cement
54. Remove temporary crowns and bridges seated with intermediate cement
56. Apply topical anesthetic
61. Remove visible excess cement from supramarginal areas of dental restorations and appliances with non-mechanical hand instruments
62. Remove periodontal dressing
69. Remove dry socket medication
 - Place drying and de-oiling agents prior to the cementation of permanent crowns and bridges
 - Place and take off a removable prosthesis with a pressure sensitive paste after the appliance has been initially seated by the dentist
 - Etch unprepared enamel
 - Polish the enamel and restorations of the anatomical crown through the use of a slow speed handpiece (not to exceed 10,000 rpm), rubber cup and polishing agent; this procedure shall be used only for the purpose of enamel preparation for: 1) Bleaching, 2) Cementation of fixed restorations, 3) Bonding procedures including supramarginal enamel restorations after removal of orthodontic appliances
 - Remove and re-cement loose bands that have previously been contoured and fitted by a dentist, but only after a dentist has examined the affected tooth and surrounded gingiva and found no evidence of pathology
 - Perform phlebotomy and venipuncture procedures (after Board-approved training in phlebotomy, intravenous access, infection control, the handling of any medical or dental emergencies associated with such procedures, and any other safety related topics required by the board is acquired)

****The Georgia Board of Dentistry has issued a policy addendum clarifying that “rubber cup prophy” refers to coronal polishing.**

*Direct Supervision: A dentist licensed in Georgia is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses 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 dental assistant and, before dismissal of the patient, evaluates the performance of the dental assistant.



2 Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA)

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

To perform expanded functions under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist in the state of Georgia, a dental assistant must earn status as an Expanded Duty Dental Assistant (EDDA). To qualify as an EDDA, one must:

1. Hold a high school diploma or its equivalent, **AND**
2. Hold a current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) certification, **AND**
3. Completion of one of the following to be eligible to enroll in a Georgia Board-approved course:
 - a. Possess current DANB Certified Dental Assistant certification **OR**
 - b. Be a graduate of a one (1) year accredited dental assisting program or a dental assisting program approved by the Board or be eligible for graduation **OR**
 - c. Have been employed as a chair side assistant by a licensed dentist for a continuous six (6) month period within the previous three (3) years.
4. Completion of the required expanded duty certificate courses (each of which must be a minimum of four hours) from an accredited dental assisting program, a dental hygiene school, a dental school or professional association recognized and approved by the Board and completed an examination demonstrating competency in specific duties that is administered by a licensed dentist on behalf of the accredited dental assistant program, dental hygiene school, dental school or professional association recognized and approved by the Georgia Board of Dentistry.

Only those expanded duties listed on the certificate(s) may be performed by an EDDA.

The employer of the expanded duty assistant shall have readily available in the dental office a copy of the certificate(s) issued from the sponsor of the accredited course(s) of study to the expanded duty dental assistant.

Allowable Functions

Functions with numbers correspond to functions included in a 2002-2005 study of dental assisting core competencies. See page 11 for more information.

Under Direct Supervision*

6. Packing and removing retraction cord, as prescribed by the dentist, so long as said cord is used solely for restorative dental procedures
15. Band, select, and pre-size arch wires and place arch wires after final adjustment and approval by the dentist
18. Apply topical anticariogenic agents
29. Select, pre-fit, cement, cure, and remove ortho bands or brackets
34. Place cavity liner, base or varnish over unexposed pulp
35. Place periodontal dressing
35. Redressing (not initial placement of dressing) and removing dressing from alveolar sockets in post-operative osteitis when the patient is uncomfortable due to the loss of dressing from the alveolar socket in a diagnosed case of post-operative osteitis
37. Take and record vital signs
40. Apply pit and fissure sealants, and primer and bonding agents to etched enamel or dentin; and light-cure with a fiber-optic light source (not to include a laser device)
42. Place and remove pre-treatment separators
43. Size and fit stainless steel crowns on a primary tooth only
44. Make impressions to be used to repair a damaged prosthesis or to fabricate a night guard (bruxism or muscle relaxation appliance); or for passive orthodontic appliances (all adjustments must be performed extraorally; final adjustments must be made by the dentist)
47. Intraoral fabrication of temporary crowns and bridges (all such adjustments must be performed extraorally)
59. Monitor the administration of nitrous oxide/oxygen; turn off nitrous oxide/oxygen at the completion of the dental procedure and make adjustments to the level of nitrous oxide/oxygen, but only following the specific instructions of the dentist
 - Apply desensitizing agents to root surfaces of teeth and prepared dentinal surfaces of teeth prior to cementation of temporary restorations and crowns, bridges or inlays
 - Changing of bleaching agent, following initial applications by the dentist, during the bleaching process of vital and non-vital teeth after the placement of a rubber dam; and applying the fiber-optic light source of a curing light for activation of the bleach (not to include a laser device)
 - Re-bond brackets after a licensed dentist has examined the affected tooth and surrounding gingiva and found no evidence of pathology
 - Remove bonded brackets with hand instruments only
 - Apply primer and bonding agents to etched enamel or dentin, and light cure with fiber-optic light source (not to include use of a laser device)
 - Perform face bow transfer
 - Place springs on wires
 - Place hooks on brackets
 - Remove loose or broken bonds
 - Remove ligature and arch wires
 - Digital scans for fabrication of orthodontic appliances and models
 - All duties designated to dental assistants, under the same levels of required supervision

***Direct Supervision:** A dentist licensed in Georgia is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses 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 dental assistant and, before dismissal of the patient, evaluates the performance of the dental assistant.

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

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 allied dental personnel, 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 2020. Note that “allied dental personnel” refers to dental assistants, dental hygienists 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 has not made 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 template.

NELDA®, CDA®, COA®, CRFDA®, CPFDA®, and COMSA®, are registered certification marks of the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB). DANB®, Dental Assisting National Board®, RHS®, ICE®, and Measuring Dental Assisting Excellence® are registered service marks of DANB. CERTIFIED DENTAL ASSISTANT™ is a certification mark of DANB.