

South Dakota

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.



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SOUTH DAKOTA: OVERVIEW

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State Job Titles

State Career Ladder

There are two recognized levels of dental assistants in South Dakota. 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 Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)

1 Unlicensed Dental Assistant

Other Levels

Other Specialized Dental Assistant Categories

This state allows dental assistants meeting requirements in the following specialized categories to perform sets of functions specific to those categories. See requirements and functions for these categories on the indicated pages.

Analgesia, Sedation and Anesthesia Assisting See pages 159-160

State Radiography Requirements

State Radiography Requirements

To legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures in South Dakota, an individual must be registered as a Dental Radiographer. To qualify, one must:

To qualify for **registration as a dental radiographer**, one must

- I. Meet one of the following requirements within 13 months prior to application
 - a. Complete a dental radiography course taken through a dental assisting, dental hygiene or dental program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, **OR**
 - b. Pass DANB's Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam, **OR**
 - c. Complete a South Dakota State Board of Dentistry-approved radiography training program, **OR**
 - d. Hold DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification

AND

- II. Submit application for registration, required documentation, and fee to the South Dakota State Board of Dentistry.

OR

To qualify for **dental radiographer registration by endorsement**, one must

- I. Have been legally practicing dental radiography in another state within the three years prior to application

AND

- II. Provide verification of completing a course including at least 16 hours of training in areas outlined in South Dakota rules

AND

- III.
 - a. Provide verification of registration number and status from the board of dentistry in each state in which the applicant is or has been registered to practice as a dental radiographer, **OR**
 - b. If not currently registered as a dental radiographer, verification of having legally practiced dental radiography for a period of time during the three years preceding application (written documentation from an employing/supervising dentist attesting to current clinical proficiency of the applicant may be required)

AND

- IV. Submit application for registration, required documentation, and fee to the South Dakota State Board of Dentistry.



Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in South Dakota, continued

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

NOTE: South Dakota regulations contain two separate lists of prohibited functions—one for Registered Dental Assistants and one for Dental Assistants.

The following functions are not permitted for Registered Dental Assistants:

- 12, 33. Intraoral placing, finishing and adjusting of final restorations
20. Supra and subgingival scaling and periodontal probing as it pertains to dental hygiene and those procedures dental hygienists may perform with the exception of placing sealants and coronal polishing
22. Applying X-radiation to human teeth and supporting structures other than as permitted for a dental assistant qualified as a Dental Radiographer (see requirements on previous page)
• Cutting of hard or soft tissue
• Establishing a final diagnosis or treatment plan
• Irreversible procedures
• Using lasers that are capable of altering, cutting, burning or damaging hard or soft tissue
• Injecting medication, other than as permitted for dental assistants qualified in injection of medications (see page 160 for requirements)
• Administering nitrous oxide analgesia, other than as permitted for Registered Dental Assistants holding a permit to perform this function (see page 160 for requirements)
• Monitoring patients under general anesthesia, deep sedation, or moderate sedation other than for Registered Dental Assistants holding a permit to perform this function (see page 159 for requirements)
• Any procedure that falls outside of the relevant education, training, and experience of the registered dental assistant
• Other procedures prohibited by the board

The following functions are not permitted for Dental Assistants:

- 6. Placing nonsurgical retraction materials for gingival displacement
40. Placing sealants
47. Fabricating provisional restorations
• Using electronic instruments for caries detection
• Adjusting dentures or partials
• Intraoral use of rotary hand instruments or ultrasonic instruments
• Any duty or procedure that falls outside of the relevant education, training, and experience of the dental assistant
• Any procedure that cannot be performed by a registered dental assistant
• Other duties or procedures prohibited by the board

Prohibited

1 Dental Assistant

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

A dental assistant in South Dakota may perform basic supportive dental procedures under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed dentist or under the personal supervision of a licensed dental hygienist.

There are no training requirements for this level of dental assisting.

Requirements

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 or Indirect Supervision By the Dentist OR Personal Supervision of a Licensed Dental Hygienist**

- Perform duties or procedures incidental to patient care, including intraoral services or assisting in the performance of clinical or clinical-related duties

If the supervising dentist is not present in the dental clinic, but has prior knowledge of and has authorized the performance (subject to the supervising dentist exercising full responsibility)

- 25. Duties or procedures that involve infection control
37. Taking vital signs and updating health history
44. Making impressions or obtaining digital records for casts and appliances
• Creating or delivering vacuum-formed orthodontic retainers
• Taking photographs extraorally or intraorally
• Removing loose bands, clasps, or brackets on orthodontic appliances or retainers
• Cutting long or broken wires
• Removing and replacing existing ligature ties and arch wires on orthodontic appliances
• Removing existing and replacing lost or missing elastic orthodontic separators
• Recementing existing provisional restorations
• Manipulating dental software for designing restorations

Allowable

*Direct supervision: A dentist diagnoses the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedure to be performed, remains in the dental clinic while the procedure is performed, and before dismissal of the patient, approves the work performed by the dental hygienist or registered dental assistant.
**Indirect supervision: A dentist authorizes the procedures and is in the dental clinic while the procedures are performed by the registered dental assistant.
Personal supervision: A dentist or dental hygienist is personally treating a patient and authorizes the dental assistant to aid the treatment by concurrently performing a supportive procedure.



2 Registered Dental Assistant

Requirements

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

To perform expanded functions under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist in South Dakota, a dental assistant must be registered as a Registered Dental Assistant. To qualify, one must:

- I. Be at least 18 years of age
AND
- II. Hold a current American Heart Association Healthcare Provider, American Red Cross Professional Rescuer or board-approved equivalent CPR certification
AND
- III. a. Graduate from a CODA-accredited dental assisting program, **OR**
b. Hold current national DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) certification, **OR**
c. Complete a dental assisting education approved program approved by the South Dakota State Board of Dentistry (SDSBD) resulting in a registered dental assistant certificate of competency
AND
- IV. If applicant holds or has held registration to perform expanded functions in other states, submit a certified letter verifying registration number and status from the board of dentistry in each state where the applicant has been registered
AND
- V. Apply to the SDSBD for registration as a Registered Dental Assistant, pay a fee, and submit required proof of meeting the above requirements

Applicants who have completed a CODA-accredited dental assisting program or obtained a certificate of competency must apply within five years of completion of the program or, if the program was completed more than five years prior to application, must have legally provided expanded functions within five years preceding application. Written documentation verifying the current clinical proficiency of the applicant to perform expanded functions may be required from a dentist who has employed or supervised the applicant within the five years prior to application.

Allowable

Allowable Functions

Under Direct Supervision*

- Perform expanded functions (list not available; see list of prohibited functions on page 2 for functions that may not be performed)
- All duties designated to Dental Assistants, under the same level of supervision required to perform those tasks

***Direct supervision:** A dentist diagnoses the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedure to be performed, remains in the dental clinic while the procedure is performed, and before dismissal of the patient, approves the work performed by the dental hygienist or registered dental assistant.
Indirect supervision: A dentist authorizes the procedures and is in the dental clinic while the procedures are performed by the registered dental assistant.
Personal supervision: A dentist or dental hygienist is personally treating a patient and authorizes the dental assistant to aid the treatment by concurrently performing a supportive procedure.



Registered Dental Assistant or Dental Assistant with training in starting intravenous lines

Requirements

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

Registered Dental Assistants and dental assistants may **start an intravenous line** if they have taken a board-approved anesthesia assisting course and received intravenous line training.

Allowable

Allowable Functions

Under Direct Supervision*

- Start an intravenous line

Registered Dental Assistant or Dental Assistant with a permit to monitor patients under general anesthesia, deep sedation or moderate sedation

Requirements

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

Registered Dental Assistants and dental assistants may apply for a permit to **monitor patients under general anesthesia, deep sedation or moderate sedation**. To qualify, an assistant must:

- I. Be certified in administering basic life support by the American Heart Association for the Healthcare Provider or the American Red Cross for the Professional Rescuer program

AND

- II. a. Have completed a SDSBD-approved educational course in anesthetic assisting of at least eight hours within 13 months of application, **OR**
 - b. Have complete a SDSBD-approved educational course in anesthetic assisting (min. 8 hours) more than 13 months prior to application and have legally monitored patients receiving analgesic or anesthetic agents for a period of time during the 2 years preceding application and provide written documentation from an employing/supervising dentist attesting to clinical proficiency

Allowable

Allowable Functions

Under Direct Supervision* of a dentist who holds a permit to administer general anesthesia and deep sedation or moderate sedation*

- Monitor patients under general anesthesia, deep sedation, or moderate sedation

*Direct supervision: A dentist diagnoses the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedure to be performed, remains in the dental clinic while the procedure is performed, and before dismissal of the patient, approves the work performed by the dental hygienist or registered dental assistant.

Indirect supervision: A dentist authorizes the procedures and is in the dental clinic while the procedures are performed by the registered dental assistant.

Personal supervision: A dentist or dental hygienist is personally treating a patient and authorizes the dental assistant to aid the treatment by concurrently performing a supportive procedure.



Registered Dental Assistant or Dental Assistant qualified in injection of medication

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

Requirements

A dentist holding a permit to administer general anesthesia/deep sedation or moderate sedation may authorize a Registered Dental Assistant or dental assistant, under the personal and direct visual supervision of the dentist and upon the dentist's verbal command, to **inject medication that the supervising dentist has drawn up through an intravenous (IV) site** if the following requirements have been met:

- I. The assistant holds a permit to monitor patients under general anesthesia, deep sedation or moderate sedation
AND
- II. The assistant has passed the Dental Anesthesia Assistant National Certification Examination (DAANCE) administered by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) and is currently DAANCE-certified
AND
- III. The supervising dentist holds a permit to administer general anesthesia and deep sedation or moderate sedation

Allowable Functions

Allowable

Under Personal* and Direct Visual Supervision

- Inject medication through an intravenous site**

***Note: In addition to the training and credentialing requirements above, the following requirements must be met:*

- (1) *The supervising dentist draws up the medications that will be utilized during the procedure*
- (2) *The Registered Dental Assistant or dental assistant is operating under the personal supervision of the supervising dentist and the supervising dentist maintains direct visual supervision during the injection of the medication through an intravenous site*
- (3) *The supervising dentist authorizes the procedure by verbal command, clearly articulating the specific medication and the amount of the medication to be administered and the dental hygienist, registered dental assistant, or dental assistant repeats the verbal command back to the supervising dentist before injecting medication through an intravenous site.*

Registered Dental Assistant with a permit to administer nitrous oxide sedation and analgesia

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

Requirements

A Registered Dental Assistant may apply for a permit to **administer nitrous oxide sedation and analgesia** under the direct supervision of a dentist. To qualify, a Registered Dental Assistant must:

- I. Be certified in administering basic life support by the American Heart Association for the Healthcare Provider or the American Red Cross for the Professional Rescuer program
AND
- II. a. Have completed a SDSBD-approved educational course meeting specified requirements within 13 months of application, **OR**
b. Have completed a SDSBD-approved educational course more than 13 months prior to application **and** have legally administered nitrous oxide sedation and analgesia for a period of time during the 3 years preceding application **and** provide written documentation from an employing/supervising dentist attesting to clinical proficiency

Allowable Functions

Allowable

Under Direct Supervision*

- Administer nitrous oxide sedation and analgesia

***Direct supervision:** A dentist diagnoses the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedure to be performed, remains in the dental clinic while the procedure is performed, and before dismissal of the patient, approves the work performed by the dental hygienist or registered dental assistant.
Indirect supervision: A dentist authorizes the procedures and is in the dental clinic while the procedures are performed by the registered dental assistant.
Personal supervision: A dentist or dental hygienist is personally treating a patient and authorizes the dental assistant to aid the treatment by concurrently performing a supportive procedure.

Appendix A: Numbering System for Dental Assisting Functions

The following list of 70 dental assisting tasks was developed by the ADA/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 arch wires
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 setups
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 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.

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