



State Job Titles

State Career Ladder

There are two recognized levels of dental assistants in West Virginia. 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 Dental Assistant *qualified in expanded duties*

1 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.

Qualified Monitor

See page 187

State Radiography Requirements

State Radiography Requirements

There are no radiography requirements for dental assistants in the state of West Virginia.

All dental assistants may legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform dental radiographic procedures.

Prohibited

Functions NOT Permitted by Dental Assistants in West Virginia

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

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

- Diagnosis, treatment planning and prescription (including prescriptions for drugs and medicaments or authorizations for restorative, prosthodontic or orthodontic appliances)
- Surgical procedures on hard and soft tissue within the oral cavity or any other intraoral procedure that contributes to or results in an irremediable alteration of the oral anatomy
- Use a power-driven instrument of any type intra-orally except as specifically set forth in West Virginia rules (see "Allowable Functions" on the pages that follow for a list of expanded duties that may be delegated to qualified dental assistants)



1 Dental Assistant

Requirements

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

A dental assistant in West Virginia may perform basic supportive dental procedures specified by the state dental practice act (see below) under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

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

Note: A chairside assistant assisting a dentist holding a permit to administer conscious/moderate sedation or general anesthesia/deep sedation must maintain BLS/CPR certification.

Allowable

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*

- 1. Viewing the oral cavity and reporting the symptoms/problems to the supervising dentist
- 2. Charting existing restorations and missing teeth
- 13. Holding and removing materials, trays, strips and sutures previously placed in the patient's mouth by the dentist
- 22, 52, 53. Placing, exposing, developing and mounting dental radiographs
- 26. Providing pre- and post-treatment instructions
- 27. Placing and removing rubber dams
- 29. Fitting bands and brackets prior to final cementation and/or bonding by the supervising dentist
- 34. Applying cavity liners and bases with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
- 44. Taking impressions for study cast and pouring models
- 45. Placing and removing matrices after a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
- 46. Taking final impressions for fixed or removable prosthesis and/or appliance with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
- 47. Fabricating and cementing temporary crowns and bridges with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
- 49. Performing pulp vitality testing (thermal or electrical) with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
- 50, 55. Placing and removing temporary restorations by a non power-driven method with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
- 54, 61. Removing excess cement from coronal surfaces of teeth without the use of rotating, power-driven or scaling instruments
- 56. Applying topical anesthetic agents with prior approval by the supervising dentist
- 62. Removing periodontal dressings with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
 - Recording medical and dental histories for interpretation by the supervising dentist
 - Inserting and adjusting athletic mouth guards and bleaching trays with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
 - Removing soft tissue dressings with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
 - Taking intra oral and extra oral photographs
 - Checking for loose orthodontic appliances with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
 - Taking orthodontic measurements with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
 - Bending archwires with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist at the time of placement
 - Removing loose or broken bands, brackets or archwires when directed by the supervising dentist

*Direct Supervision: Supervision provided by a licensed dentist who is physically present in the dental office or treatment facility when procedures are being performed.



2 Dental Assistant qualified in expanded duties

Requirements

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

To qualify to perform specified restorative expanded duties in West Virginia, a dental assistant must:

- I. Complete a West Virginia Board of Dentistry (WVBD)-approved course of at least 6 hours
AND
II. Complete a written examination by a score of at least 75%
AND
III. Complete required clinical experiences under the observation of the supervising dentist, who attests to the dental assistant's competent performance of the function,
AND
IV. Apply to WVBD for a Restorative Duties certificate

To qualify to perform specified orthodontic expanded duties in West Virginia, a dental assistant must:

- I. Complete a West Virginia Board of Dentistry (WVBD)-approved course of at least 4 hours
AND
II. Successful completion of a written examination by a score of at least 75%
AND
III. Complete required clinical experiences under the observation of the supervising dentist, who attests to the dental assistant's competent performance of the function
AND
IV. Apply to WVBD for an Orthodontic Duties certificate

To qualify to perform visual monitoring of nitrous oxide analgesia units in West Virginia, a dental assistant must:

- I. Complete a WVBD-approved course in monitoring nitrous oxide of at least 2 hours
AND
II. Complete a written examination by a score of at least 75%
AND
III. Be currently certified in health care provider CPR through the American Red Cross or the American Heart Association
AND
IV. Apply to WVBD for a Nitrous Oxide Monitoring certificate

To qualify to perform coronal polishing on children under age 21 in West Virginia, a dental assistant must:

- I. Complete two years, at least 3,000 hours, of clinical experience in a dental office, as attested to by the supervising dentist
AND
II. Hold the expanded duties certificate issued by the WVBD
AND
III. Complete a WVBD-approved coronal polishing course of at least 3 hours
AND
IV. Complete a written examination by a score of at least 75%
AND
V. Complete required clinical experiences on 5 separate patients under the observation of the supervising dentist, who attests to the dental assistant's competent performance of the function
AND
VI. Apply to WVBD for a Coronal Polishing Permit

Allowable

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. Placing retraction cords for crown impressions with prior approval of the supervising dentist
9. Using a power-driven hand piece with rubber cup and/or brush only for preparing a tooth for accepting a restoration and/or appliance, which shall in no way be represented to the patient as a prophylaxis
9. Perform supragingival and coronal polishing on children under 21 years of age using a slow speed hand piece with a rubber cup
18 Applying topical anticariogenic agents, with prior approval of the supervising dentist
29, 42. Placing or removing temporary space maintainers, orthodontic separating devices, ligatures, brackets and bands with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist at the time of placement or removal
40. Applying pit and fissure sealants, with a final evaluation by the supervising dentist
59. Visually monitoring a nitrous oxide analgesia unit
• Chemical conditioning of the tooth to accept a restoration and/or bracket by topical application

*Direct Supervision: Supervision provided by a licensed dentist who is physically present in the dental office or treatment facility when procedures are being performed.



Qualified Monitor

Requirements

Education, Training and Credential Requirements

Any individual, including a dental assistant, acting as a Qualified Monitor during sedation procedures must have received training and be competent in the recognition and treatment of medical emergencies, monitoring vital signs, the operation of nitrous oxide delivery systems and the use of the sphygmomanometer and stethoscope **AND** must meet the following requirements:

For **relative analgesia/minimal sedation**:

- I. Possess a current health care provider BLS/CPR certification (qualified monitor certificate is not required)

For anxiolysis/minimal sedation:

- I. Possess a current health care provider BLS/CPR certification

AND

- II. Apply to the WVBD for a qualified monitor certificate

For **conscious sedation/moderate sedation** (limited enteral or comprehensive parenteral) and **general anesthesia/deep conscious sedation**:

- I. Possess a current health care provider BLS/CPR certification

AND

- II. Successfully complete an American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS) or American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) anesthesia assistants certification program or equivalent

AND

- III. Apply to the WVBD for a Qualified Monitor certificate

In addition to the above requirements for a Qualified Monitor, for all levels of sedation, including relative analgesia/minimal sedation, when monitoring a nitrous oxide unit, a certificate to monitor nitrous oxide must be obtained from the Board, as described on the previous page.

A dentist holding an anesthesia permit must report the names and qualifications of each Qualified Monitor providing services to that permit holder to the West Virginia Board of Dentistry.

Allowable

Allowable Functions

During Sedation Procedures

- Check closely and document the status of a patient undergoing anesthesia
- Observe utilized equipment