



Dental Assisting National Board

in collaboration with



# Dental Industry Specialist in Infection Prevention and Control (DISIPC)™

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## Exam Outline and References

The purpose of the DISIPC exam is to ensure that individuals meet the minimum national standard for knowledge-based competence in dental infection prevention and control for the industry specialist. See [dentalinfectioncontrol.org](http://dentalinfectioncontrol.org) for DISIPC exam eligibility requirements.

Effective 06/01/2022

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# DISIPC

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## Exam Outline Overview

### Exam Weighting by Domain

- I. Regulatory and Occupational Safety (15%)
- II. Prevention of Disease Transmission (45%)
- III. Infection Control Protocols (40%)

### Exam Administration

Number of Multiple-Choice Questions	100
Time for Exam (minutes)	75
Time for Appointment (minutes)	80

The exam is administered in-person and through remote online proctoring. The candidate may choose the method they prefer. Remote proctoring allows candidates to take exams using their own computer while being monitored by webcam and microphone.

# DISIPC Exam Outline

## I: Regulatory and Occupational Safety (15%)

- A. Describe differences between laws, rules, regulations, standards and guidelines as they apply to dental infection prevention and control.
  - 1. CDC Guidelines.
  - 2. OSHA Standards and Regulations.
  - 3. State laws and rules.
- B. Explain OSHA Hazard Communication Standards as they relate to storage and hazardous waste disposal protocols found on safety data sheets (SDS).

## II: Prevention of Disease Transmission (45%)

- A. Describe disease transmission concepts, including but not limited to:
  - 1. chain of infection.
  - 2. modes of transmission.
  - 3. cross-contamination.
- B. Describe exposure prevention precautions, including but not limited to:
  - 1. standard precautions.
  - 2. transmission-based precautions.
  - 3. personal protective equipment (PPE).
  - 4. engineering, work practice and administrative controls.
- C. Describe dental unit water quality, including but not limited to:
  - 1. formation of biofilm and associated risks.
  - 2. sequence for flushing and shocking waterlines.
  - 3. types of products used for maintaining and shocking waterlines.
  - 4. methods of testing dental unit water quality.

### III: Infection Control Procedures (40%)

- A. Describe CDC guidelines for instrument processing, including but not limited to:
1. sequence of instrument processing.
  2. cleaning/decontamination workflow.
  3. preparing and packaging instruments for sterilization/disinfection.
  4. sterilization and monitoring.
  5. storage of instruments.
  6. conditions and factors that impact instrument processing.
  7. handpiece sterilization protocol.
  8. maintenance of sterilization equipment.
- B. Describe environmental infection control concepts and procedures, including but not limited to:
1. housekeeping and clinical surfaces.
  2. cleaning/disinfecting products.
  3. surface barriers.
- C. Describe types of and disposal procedures related to regulated medical waste.
- D. Describe how to maintain infection control supplies, including but not limited to:
1. follow manufacturers' instructions for use (IFUs).
  2. rotation and storage of instruments and supplies.
  3. single-use and disposable items.

# DISIPC Exam Suggested References

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DANB exam committees use the following textbooks and reference materials to develop this exam. This list does not include all available study materials; these are the resources that exam committees have determined provide the most up-to-date information needed to meet a determined level of competence on this exam. Any one reference will likely not include all the study material required to pass the exam. **Please note that previous editions of the resources below may be used for study purposes if the previous version was published within the past 5 years.**

This list is intended to help prepare for this exam. It is not an endorsement of the publications. You should prepare for the exam using as many different study materials as possible.

## Suggested References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).
  - *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings — 2003* (MMWR, Vol. 52, RR 17). [www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a1.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5217a1.htm)
  - *Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care*. Atlanta, GA: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Oral Health; 2016. [www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/summary-infection-prevention-practices/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/summary-infection-prevention-practices/index.html)
2. U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).
  - *Hazard Communication Standard* (Code of Federal Regulations #29, Part 1910.1200)
  - *Bloodborne Pathogens Standard* (1910.1030). [www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030](http://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030)
3. Miller, C.H. (2018). *Infection Control and Management of Hazardous Materials for the Dental Team* (6th ed.). Elsevier Health Sciences (US).

## Additional/Optional Study Resources

1. The Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP). [www.osap.org](http://www.osap.org).
  - *From Policy to Practice: OSAP's Guide to the Guidelines*
  - *OSAP Dental Infection Control Bootcamp™*
  - *OSAP's OSHA & CDC Guidelines: Interact Training System*
2. The DALE Foundation. [www.dalefoundation.org](http://www.dalefoundation.org).
  - *The DALE Foundation's DANB ICE Review*
  - *The DALE Foundation's DANB ICE Practice Test*
3. OSAP-DALE Foundation. [www.dentalinfectioncontrol.org](http://www.dentalinfectioncontrol.org)
  - *OSAP-DALE Foundation Dental Infection Prevention and Control eHandbook*
  - *Understanding CDC's Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings*
  - *General Aspects of Instrument Processing*

# Exam Development and Maintenance

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## **How exams are developed**

DANB exams are developed using this exam outline, which is annually reviewed by subject matter experts. The outline is developed using a content validation study, which includes a job analysis survey where practicing DANB certificants and certificate holders are asked how often tasks are performed and how critical competent performance of tasks is to the health and safety of the public and oral healthcare worker. This study is conducted every five to seven years to ensure the outline is consistent with current clinical practices. DANB's Board of Directors approves all updates to DANB exam outlines.

## **How the passing standard is determined**

The exam passing standard is evaluated and a Standard Setting Study is conducted the year following a Content Validation Study. DANB uses a modified Angoff standard setting method and convenes a panel of subject matter experts to evaluate and make judgements about the difficulty of the exam items and the criticality of the content of the exam items. Modified Angoff standard setting methods are commonly used to set the passing standards for certification exams. DANB's Board of Directors approves all changes to DANB exam passing standards.

## **How exams are scored**

In a criterion-referenced examination, a candidate must obtain a score equal to, or higher than, the passing score to pass the test. A minimum passing scaled score of 400 must be obtained to pass the exam with scores ranging from 100 to 900 points. Exam results are reported as a "scaled score" which is neither a "number correct" nor a "percent correct" score. Performance on the exam is not compared to the performance of others taking the exam.

## **Receiving your exam results**

You will be notified by email within 1-3 business days after your exam that your exam results are available in your online DANB account.

## **State Regulations**

Each state's dental board implements regulations and establishes rules for delegating legally allowable duties to dental assistants. Passing one or more of the DANB component exams or earning DANB certification only conveys authority to perform these duties in those states that recognize these exams or this certification as meeting state dental assisting requirements. This information is available at [www.danb.org](http://www.danb.org).