

DENTAL ASSISTING TABLE OF PERMITTED DUTIES

The following is a table of duties which Dental Assistants (DA), Orthodontic Assistants (OA), Dental Sedation Assistants (DSA), Registered Dental Assistants (RDA) and Registered Dental Assistants in Extended Functions (RDAEF) are allowed to perform in California.

This table is intended to provide summary information to interested parties. It is not intended to cover all aspects of applicable laws or provide a substitute for reviewing the laws that are cross-referenced below. It is highly recommended that applicants and licensees review the actual text of the laws cited at the link provided below. **If a duty is not listed in the sections of law cited below, assistants are NOT allowed to perform the duty.** Under each category of assistant is one of the following notations: “D”, “C”, “G” or “DD”.

“D” = the assistant may perform the duty under the Direct supervision of a dentist, which means supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who must be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures. The duty must be performed pursuant to the order, control and full professional responsibility of the supervising dentist. Such procedures must be checked and approved by the supervising dentist prior to dismissal of the patient from the office of said dentist.

Note: Dental Sedation Assistant permit holders may also perform the listed duty under a licensed health care professional authorized to administer conscious sedation or general anesthesia in the dental office.

“C” = the assistant may perform the duty in the specified setting under the supervision of a dentist, Registered Dental Hygienist, or Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice.

“G” = the assistant can perform the duty under the General supervision of a dentist, which means based on instructions given by a licensed dentist, but not requiring the physical presence of the supervising dentist during the performance of those procedures.

“DD” = 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, except as provided in Section 1777.

The sections of law noted below are contained in the Dental Practice Act located in Chapter 4 of Division 2 of the California Business and Professions Code (BPC). For the actual text of the laws, the following link will take you to the page on the Dental Board’s web site <http://www.dbc.ca.gov/lawsregs/laws.shtml>.

ALLOWABLE DUTIES	SECTION OF LAW (Statute or Regulation)	D	C	G	DD
DENTAL ASSISTANT (DA) BPC, SECTION 1750.1					
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 specified in Section 1750	1750.1			X	
Operate dental radiography equipment for the purpose of oral radiography if the dental assistant has complied with the requirements of Section 1656	1750.1			X	
Perform intraoral and extraoral photography	1750.1			X	
Apply nonaerosol and noncaustic topical agents	1750.1	X			
Apply topical fluoride	1750.1	X			
Take intraoral impressions for all nonprosthodontic appliances	1750.1	X			
Take facebow transfers and bite registrations	1750.1	X			
Place and remove rubber dams or other isolation devices	1750.1	X			
Place, wedge, and remove matrices for restorative procedures	1750.1	X			
Remove postextraction dressings after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist	1750.1	X			
Perform measurements for the purposes of orthodontic treatment	1750.1	X			
Cure restorative or orthodontic materials in operative site with a light-curing device	1750.1	X			
Examine orthodontic appliances	1750.1	X			
Place and remove orthodontic separators	1750.1	X			
Remove ligature ties and archwires	1750.1	X			
After adjustment by the dentist, examine and seat removable orthodontic appliances and deliver care instructions to the patient	1750.1	X			
Remove periodontal dressings	1750.1	X			
Remove sutures after inspection of the site by the dentist	1750.1	X			
Place patient monitoring sensors	1750.1	X			
Monitor patient sedation, limited to reading and transmitting information from the monitor display 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 by a supervising licensed dentist who shall be at the patient's chairside during this procedure	1750.1	X			
Assist in the administration of nitrous oxide when used for analgesia or sedation. A dental assistant shall not start the administration of the gases and shall not adjust the flow of the gases unless instructed to do so by the supervising licensed dentist who shall be present at the patient's chairside during the implementation of these instructions. This paragraph shall not be construed to prevent any person from taking appropriate action in the event of a medical emergency	1750.1	X			
Apply topical fluoride under the general direction of a licensed dentist or physician, when operating in a school-based setting or a public health program created or administered by a federal, state, county, or local governmental entity pursuant to Sections 104762 and 104830 of the Health and Safety Code	1750.1			X	
Intraoral retraction and suctioning under the supervision of a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice	1750.1		X		

ALLOWABLE DUTIES	SECTION OF LAW (Statute or Regulation)	D	C	G	DD
ORTHODONTIC ASSISTANT PERMIT (OA) BPC, SECTION 1750.3					
All duties that a dental assistant is allowed to perform	1750.3	X			
Prepare teeth for bonding, and select, preposition, and cure orthodontic brackets after their position has been approved by the supervising licensed dentist	1750.3	X			
Remove only orthodontic brackets and attachments with removal of the bonding material by the supervising licensed dentist.	1750.3	X			
Size, fit, and cement orthodontic bands	1750.3	X			
Remove orthodontic bands and remove excess cement from supragingival surfaces of teeth with a hand instrument	1750.3	X			
Place and ligate archwires	1750.3	X			
Remove excess cement with an ultrasonic scaler from supragingival surfaces of teeth undergoing orthodontic treatment	1750.3	X			
DENTAL SEDATION ASSISTANT PERMIT (DSA) BPC, SECTION 1750.5					
All duties that a dental assistant is allowed to perform	1750.5	X			
Monitor patients undergoing conscious sedation or general anesthesia utilizing data from noninvasive instrumentation such as pulse oximeters, electrocardiograms, capnography, blood pressure, pulse, and respiration rate monitoring devices. 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	1750.5	X			
Drug identification and draw, limited to identification of appropriate medications, ampule and vial preparation, and withdrawing drugs of correct amount as verified by the supervising licensed dentist	1750.5	X			
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	1750.5	X			
Removal of intravenous lines	1750.5	X			
REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT (RDA) BPC, SECTION 1752.4					
All duties that a dental assistant is allowed to perform	1752.4				X
Mouth-mirror inspections of the oral cavity, to include charting of obvious lesions, existing restorations, and missing teeth	1752.4				X
Apply and activate bleaching agents using a nonlaser light-curing device	1752.4				X
Use of automated caries detection devices and materials to gather information for diagnosis by the dentist	1752.4				X
Obtain intraoral images for computer-aided design (CAD), milled restorations	1752.4				X

ALLOWABLE DUTIES	SECTION OF LAW (Statute or Regulation)	D	C	G	DD
REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT (RDA) BPC, SECTION 1752.4 – Continued					
Pulp vitality testing and recording of findings	1752.4				X
Place bases, liners, and bonding agents	1752.4				X
Chemically prepare teeth for bonding	1752.4				X
Place, adjust, and finish direct provisional restorations	1752.4				X
Fabricate, adjust, cement, and remove indirect provisional restorations, including stainless steel crowns when used as a provisional restoration	1752.4				X
Place post-extraction dressings after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist	1752.4				X
Place periodontal dressings	1752.4				X
Dry endodontically treated canals using absorbent paper points	1752.4				X
Adjust dentures extra-orally	1752.4				X
Remove excess cement from surfaces of teeth with a hand instrument	1752.4				X
Polish coronal surfaces of the teeth	1752.4				X
Place ligature ties and archwires	1752.4				X
Remove orthodontic bands	1752.4				X
*A registered dental assistant may only perform the following additional duties if he or she has completed a board-approved registered dental assistant educational program in those duties, or if he or she has provided evidence, satisfactory to the board, of having completed a board-approved course in those duties					
*Remove excess cement with an ultrasonic scaler from supragingival surfaces of teeth undergoing orthodontic treatment	1752.4	X			
*The allowable duties of an orthodontic assistant permitholder as specified in Section 1750.3. A registered dental assistant shall not be required to complete further instruction in the duties of placing ligature ties and archwires, removing orthodontic bands, and removing excess cement from tooth surfaces with a hand instrument	1752.4	X			
*The allowable duties of a dental sedation assistant permitholder as specified in Section 1750.5	1752.4	X			
*The application of pit and fissure sealants	1752.4	X			
REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT in EXTENDED FUNCTIONS (RDAEF) BPC, SECTION 1753.5 Licensed on or after January 1, 2010					
All duties that a dental assistant is allowed to perform	1753.5				X
All duties that a registered dental assistant is allowed to perform as specified in and limited by Section 1752.4	1753.5				X
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	1753.5	X			
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	1753.5		X		
Cord retraction of gingiva for impression procedures	1753.5	X			
Size and fit endodontic master points and accessory points	1753.5	X			
Cement endodontic master points and accessory points	1753.5	X			
Take final impressions for permanent indirect restorations	1753.5	X			
Polish and contour existing amalgam restorations	1753.5	X			
Adjust and cement permanent indirect restorations	1753.5	X			

ALLOWABLE DUTIES	SECTION OF LAW (Statute or Regulation)	D	C	G	DD
<p>Additional authorized duties of a registered dental assistant in extended functions (RDAEF), BPC, Section 1753.55. A registered dental assistant in extended functions is authorized to perform the additional duties as set forth in subdivision (b) pursuant to the order, control, and full professional responsibility of a supervising dentist, if the licensee meets one of the following requirements:</p> <p>(1) Is licensed on or after January 1, 2010.</p> <p>(2) Is licensed prior to January 1, 2010, has successfully completed a board-approved course in the additional procedures specified in paragraphs (1), (2), (5), and (7) to (11), inclusive, of subdivision (b) of Section 1753.5, and passed the examination as specified in Section 1753.4. The pocket license of the authorized licensee will state the RDAEF perform the duties per B&P 1753.5 and 1753.55.</p>					
<p>Determine which radiographs to perform on a patient who has not received an initial examination by the supervising dentist for the specific purpose of the dentist making a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient. In these circumstances, the dental assistant in extended functions shall follow protocols established by the supervising dentist. This paragraph only applies in the following settings:</p> <p>(A) In a dental office setting.</p> <p>(B) In public health settings, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics, under the general supervision of a dentist.</p>	1753.55			X	
<p>Place protective restorations in a dental office setting, under the direct or general supervision of a dentist as determined by the dentist.</p>	1753.55				X
<p>Place protective restorations after the diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist in public health settings, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics, under the general supervision of a dentist.</p>	1753.55			X	
<p>REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT in EXTENDED FUNCTIONS (RDAEF) BPC, SECTION 1753.6 Licensed prior to January 1, 2010 and has not completed a Board-approved course in the additional procedures specified in paragraphs (1), (2), (5) and (7) to (11) inclusive, of Section 1753.5 (b) and an examination as specified in Section 1753.4</p>					
<p>All duties that a registered dental assistant is allowed to perform as specified in and limited by Section 1752.4</p>	1753.6				X
<p>Cord retraction of gingiva for impression procedures</p>	1753.6				X
<p>Take final impressions for permanent indirect restorations</p>	1753.6	X			
<p>Formulate indirect patterns for endodontic post and core castings</p>	1753.6	X			
<p>Fit trial endodontic filling points</p>	1753.6	X			
<p>Apply pit and fissure sealants</p>	1753.6	X			
<p>Remove excess cement from subgingival tooth surfaces with a hand instrument</p>	1753.6	X			