EXPANDED FUNCTIONS FOR DENTAL ASSISTANTS

NOTE: While the information contained in this chart is of general interest, one cannot rely on this chart to obtain a number of states that allow a particular function because the information presented here is a snapshot at a particular point in time and may not be completely up-to-date. See the end of this document for a more complete statement.

Note also that there may be a discrepancy in the way states characterize "expanded functions." For example: one state may consider coronal polishing an expanded function, and another may consider it a regular function. Two helpful resources that are more thorough and timely than this document are: (1) The current ADA *"Survey of Legal Provisions for Delegating Intraoral Functions to Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists"* and (2) Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB) publication of their annual *"State Fact Booklet"* an annual compilation of all states' statutes and regulations applicable to dental assistants.

The following states authorize a dental assistant to perform functions which are beyond the scope of an assistant's "traditional" duties, as defined by the state and which generally require specific training[1/] *This information is accurate according to the records available to DSGA and may not wholly reflect the current status.

"Supervision" as listed under Qualifications refers to that of a licensed dentist unless specifically indicated otherwise.

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
ALABAMA	Dental Assistant	Various ortho functions, take x-rays, apply topical agents (but not sealants), help administer nitrous oxide	Direct supervision	Dental Assistant
ALASKA	Dental Assistant	Coronal Polishing Restorative Functions	Direct Supervision - approved course Direct supervision - CODA accredited program, WREB's restoratives exam.	Dental Assistant
ARIZONA	Dental Assistant	Place interim restorations, place amalgam, apply fluoride varnish and sealants, monitor nitrous oxide Take x-rays, coronal polishing	Direct Supervision General supervision & DANB-approved course(s) and exam(s)	Dental Assistant
ARKANSAS	Registered Dental Assistant	Monitor nitrous oxide Take x-rays, coronal polishing	Personal supervision & approved course Approved course and exam	Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)Dental Assistant

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
CALIFORNIA **Section 1750 – 1768 Bus. & Prof. Code**	Dental Assistant (DA)	DA - Perform "basic supportive services" that are completely reversible. Assist in administering nitrous oxide, take x-rays. Unlicensed.	DA - Supervision (required for all levels of assistants); approved radiation safety course; courses in CA Dental Practice Law, BLS, infection control.	Unlicensed Dental Assistant
	Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)	RDA - Placement of restoratives and placement sealants under general supervision. Licensed	RDA - Work experience and approved courses in allowed duties, radiation-safety, infection control, dental law, and BLS. Written and clinical exam. CE course work, written and clinical exams and CE.	Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)
	Registered dental assistant in extended functions. (RDAEF) This category expires in 2010.	RDAEF – All duties of an RDA plus Perform charting, preliminary assessments of oral health; examine soft tissue and oral health assessments in school-based, community health project settings. Placement sealants under general supervision and the placement of restoratives. Licensed	RDAEF - Approved courses in allowed duties, radiation-safety, infection control, dental law, and BLS. Written and clinical exam. CE. Works at the direction & direct supervision of dentist or RDH or RDHAP.	Registered Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded/Extended Duties/ Functions (RDAEF)
	Orthodontic Assistant Permit	Orthodontic duties set forth in law.	Courses in orthodontic assisting, infection control, dental law, and BLS. Written and clinical exam. CE 12 mos. work experience, CE.	
	Oral Surgery/Periodontal Practices Permit	Oral Surgery/Periodontal Duties set forth in law		
COLORADO	Dental Assistant	Apply topical agents, coronal polishing Denture services, administer nitrous oxide Take X-rays	Indirect supervision. Direct supervision. For x-rays – 5 hours of experience and 3 hours lecture or DANB Radiation Health & Safety Exam.	Dental Assistant Expanded Duties Dental Assistant-EDDA Some dental assistants in the state of Colorado may choose to complete an EDDA education program. The EDDA designation is NOT recognized by the Colorado State Board of Dentistry and does not qualify a dental assistant to perform expanded duties in the state.

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
CONNECTICUT	Dental Assistant	Take x-rays	Supervision and DANB RHS Exam	Dental Assistant
DELAWARE	Dental Auxiliary	Various, including take x-rays	Must have State Certificate to take x-rays or alternatively DANB CDA credential or RHS exam that constitutes equivalence of state certification.	Dental Assistant
FLORIDA	Dental Assistant Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Take x-rays, apply topical fluoride Monitor nitrous oxide, coronal polishing, remove sutures.	Indirect supervision and formal training. Direct supervision. Formal training.	Dental Assistant Expanded Function(s) Dental Assistant-EFDA
GEORGIA	Dental Assistant Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Ortho functions, coronal polishing Monitor nitrous oxide, apply sealants	Direct supervision Direct supervision and approved coursework and certificate.	Dental Assistant Expanded Duties Dental Assistant-EDDA
HAWAII	Dental Assistant	Take x-rays, monitor nitrous oxide	Direct supervision	Dental Assistant
IDAHO	Dental Assistant Expanded Function(s) Dental Assistant-EFDA	Take x-rays, fluoride application Temporary crowns, coronal polishing, monitor nitrous oxide, apply sealants	Direct supervision Direct supervision and Board-certification.	Dental Assistant Expanded Function(s) Dental Assistant-EFDA
ILLINOIS	Dental Assistant Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded Duties/Functions	Take x-rays Monitor nitrous oxide administration Coronal polishing, apply sealants	Supervision following coursework or on-the-job training. Supervision, CPR certification, and completion of approved coursework. Supervision and completion of approved coursework and clinical experience.	Dental Assistant Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded Duties/Functions

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
INDIANA	Dental assistant	Operate x-ray equipment, place, & condense amalgam, place & finish composite	DANB RHS or CDA exam plus state-run on-the-job training program or ADA-approved college dental assisting program to obtain state x-ray operator equipment license.	Dental Assistant
IOWA	Dental Assistant Trainee Registered Dental Assistant (Licensed) Registered Dental Assistant with Expanded Duties Training	Various tasks Sealants, coronal polishing, dental radiography Monitor nitrous oxide, place temporary restorations, take impressions	On-the-job training under personal supervision. Within 12 months, completion of a board-approved course of study and board-approved exam to become a registered DA. All dental assistants must be licensed (registered) and work under supervision. DAs are required to pass board-approved exams and take CE. 2 years experience Board-approved course	Dental Assistant Trainee Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Registered Dental Assistant with Expanded Duties Training
KANSAS	Dental Assistant Dental Assistant with Expanded Duties Training	Coronal polishing, place & condense amalgam, place & finish composite Coronal scaling Administer and monitor nitrous oxide	Direct supervision & dentist-provided training Certificate from an approved course. CPR certification, board-approved course	Dental Assistant Dental Assistant with Expanded Duties Training
KENTUCKY	Dental Auxiliary Registered Dental Assistant	Various tasks, place & condense amalgam, place & finish composite Coronal Polishing, take x-rays	Supervision & approved coursework & DANB RHS exam. Coronal Polishing-approved coursework or certification and 1 year clinical office experience.	Dental Assistant
LOUISIANA	Dental Assistant Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Take x-rays Place or remove matrices, temporary separating devices, periodontal dressings, retraction cords; apply sealants	Direct supervision Direct supervision. High school diploma or equivalent & completion of approved DA program.	Dental Assistant Expanded Duties Dental Assistant-EDDA

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
MAINE	Dental Assistant	Various including coronal polishing, suture removal, pouring and trimming dental models, fabricate temporary restorations, removal of composite using slow-speed handpiece to de-bond brackets.	Supervision required (general or direct depending on task).	Dental Assistant
	Certified Dental Assistant	Above duties plus taking x-rays, temporary restorations;	General supervision and DANB RHS or CDA EXAM for eligibility for board licensure as Dental Radiographer operator. Board approved training program,	DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®)
	Expanded Function DAs rules adopted 2007	All of the above plus, place and carve restoratives prior to final curing.; apply topical fluorides and sealants;	Be a Certified Dental Assistant or licensed as a dental hygienist; and complete a Board approved CODA accredited EFDA program; jurisprudence exam; CPR certificate; certification as EFDA by endorsement approved. 50 hours CE every 5 years required.	Expanded Function(s) Dental Assistant-EFDA
MARYLAND	Dental Assistant	Take x-rays	Direct supervision, approved coursework, DANB RHS exam and registration with board	Dental Assistant
	Dental Assistant Recognized as Qualified in Orthodontics	Ortho functions	Direct supervision, approved program and DANB CDA or COA exam or Maryland Ortho Assisting exam.	Dental Assistant Qualified in General Duties

MASSACHUSETTS	Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) Certified Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Assistants(FTA) Certified Ortho Assistants (COA) On-The-Job Trained Dental Assistant (OJT) (Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) means a person who is a graduate of a school or program for dental assistants accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation, is currently certified by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc., or its successor agency, and has completed a formal program in expanded functions at a program accredited by the CODA.	Coronal polishing, assist in administering nitrous oxide, place sealants. Different categories of DA can perform different functions, or similar functions with differing levels of supervision including place amalgam.	General supervision, certification, and in some cases completion of DANB exam is required to take radiographs and perform other expanded functions.	DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®) Formally-Trained Dental Assistant Certified Ortho Assistants (COA) On-The-Job Trained Dental Assistant

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
MICHIGAN	Dental Assistant Registered Dental Assistant	Ortho functions Radiography, coronal polishing, assist in admin & monitor nitrous oxide, various other duties	General or direct supervision General or direct supervision, approved program and board exam	Dental Assistant Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)
MINNESOTA	Dental Assistant (unlicensed) Licensed Dental Assistant	Various basic duties Various, including taking x-rays, administering and monitoring nitrous oxide, coronal polishing, ortho tasks, placing temporary restorative materials, place and carve amalgam, place & finish composite	Personal dental supervision. All regulated dental assistants must be current in CPR at the Health Care Provider level May work with general supervision; approved program and exam	Dental Assistant Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA)

MISSISSIPPI	Dental Assistants	Take x-rays, place amalgam	Direct supervision, radiology permit is required	Dental Assistant
MISSOURI	Dental Assistant Certified Dental Assistant Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded Duties/Functions (EFDAs must register with the dental board.)	Help administer and monitor nitrous oxide Place restorative material for Class I, V, and V1 preparations; air-polish crowns, take x-rays.	Approved program and exam Approved program and exam Certification or completion of the Missouri Basic Dental Assisting Skills Mastery Examination AND a Missouri board-approved expanded functions course AND completion of an approved competency exam.	Dental Assistant DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®) Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded Duties/Functions
MONTANA	Dental Auxiliaries	Polish coronal surfaces Take x-rays Various ortho functions Various	Direct supervision *and* Approved course Approved program and exam Approved program and exam	Dental Auxiliary
NEBRASKA	Dental Assistants	Take x-rays, coronal polishing, monitor nitrous oxide, place amalgam	Indirect supervision, approved program & 1-year experience as a DA.	Dental Assistant

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
NEVADA	Dental Assistant	Take x-rays, coronal polishing, apply sealants, ortho-related tasks	Supervision; dentist must ensure formal or on-the-job training for assistants who take radiographs	Dental Assistant
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Assistants Certified Dental Assistant & Graduate Dental Assistant Qualified Dental Assistant	Basic supportive procedures Apply fluoride, topical anesthesia and bleaching agents Above, and take x-rays, apply sealants, perform ortho –related functions	Approved program from accredited school Approved course and board exam	Dental Assistant DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®) & Graduate Dental Assistant Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded Duties/Functions

NEW JERSEY	Unregistered dental assistant Registered Dental Assistant Limited Registered dental assistant in orthodontics	Take x-rays Various, monitor nitrous oxide, coronal polishing, place amalgam Ortho functions, prepare work order for emergency prosthesis repair.	DANB Certified for X-Rays, Direct supervision, approved course and hold a NJ Dental Radiologic License. Direct supervision, Board-approved course, exam Direct supervision, approved course and CE for nitrous oxide monitoring; other functions require approved coursework or 2 years experience	Unregistered Dental Assistant Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)
NEW MEXICO	Dental Assistant Dental Assistant Certified for Dental Radiography Certified Dental Assistant	Basic supportive procedures Take x-rays Sealants; coronal polishing; fluoride varnish	Supervision, approved program and continuing education Supervision, approved program, exam and continuing education Same	Dental Assistant Dental Assistant with State Certification in Expanded Functions
NEW YORK	Dental Assistant State-licensed "certified dental assistant Dental Assistant with a Limited Permit	Basic supportive procedures Ortho, x-ray; any reversible, non-invasive supportive procedure.	Direct personal supervision. Supervision, approved courses, exam Approved courses,, direct personal supervision, one year permit, renewable once	Unlicensed Dental Assistant State-licensed "certified dental assistant" DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®) Dental Assistant with a Limited Permit

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
NORTH CAROLINA	Dental Assistant I Dental Assistant II	Take x-rays. Help administer nitrous oxide Make impressions, apply sealants, coronal polishing	Approved course, clinical experience, and equivalency exam. Approved course or clinical experience. Formal education or experience.	Dental Assistant I Dental Assistant II DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®) In NC there are only 2 classifications of DAs (DAI and DAII)
NORTH DAKOTA	Dental Assistants Qualified Dental Assistants	Basic Supportive functions Take x-rays, basic supportive functions	On the job training On the job training, and board	Dental Assistant

	Registered Dental Assistant (Certified DAs)	Take x-rays, ortho, monitor nitrous oxide, coronal polishing, take impressions for athletic mouthguard and passive post-treatment retainers. Place sealants.	approved infection control and X-ray course and pass DANB exam. Any alternative (a) a CODA accredited DA course; (b) North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners-approved DA course; (c) Certified by DANB plus 3000 hours of DA instruction including on the job training. In addition annual CE and registration Board approved course and be a registered DA.	Qualified Dental Assistant Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)
OHIO	Advanced Qualified Personnel (Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries) Dental Assistant Radiographer Certified Dental Assistant Basic Qualified Personnel	Place & contour restorative materials, sealants, monitor nitrous oxide, coronal polishing. Take x-rays Sealants, coronal polishing Basic supportive procedures	Direct supervision, graduation from an accredited program, board approved competency exam and BLS certification. DANB or Board approved exam & license Supervision, approved courses, exam Direct supervision and responsibility, trained directly by employer	Expanded Function(s) Dental Auxiliary EFDA DANB Certified Dental Assistant & (CDA®)& Certified Ohio Dental Assistant Basic Qualified Personnel

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
OKLAHOMA	Dental Assistant Expanded Duty Dental Assistant: four types of Expanded Duty Permits required to perform specified duties.	Basic supportive procedures Radiation safety permit; coronal polishing/topical fluoride permit, Sealants permit, Nitrous Oxide permit	On-the-job training and direct supervision. Each type of permit has specific formal education requirements.	Dental Assistant Expanded Duties Dental Assistant-EDDA
OREGON	Dental Assistant Expanded Function Dental Assistant	Take x-rays Various, Coronal polishing of all ages including kids $\leq$ 12 years of age with no calculus. Place sealants.	Supervision and: Approved course and exam Approved course (may be in-office) and exam	Dental Assistant Expanded Function(s) Dental Assistant-EFDA

	Orthodontic Dental Assistant and Expanded Function Ortho Asst. Certified Anesthesia Dental Assistant Restorative Functions Dental Assistant	Various ortho functions Various duties as assigned. Place and finish direct alloy or direct anterior composite restorations	Approved course (may be in-office) and exam; DANB exam; BLS/CPR certification Informed consent of patient; Board approved and accredited curriculum the Western Regional Examining Board's Restorative Examination	
PENNSYLVANIA	Expanded Function Dental Assistant	Place and remove rubber dams and matrices, place and contour amalgam and other restorative materials, place sealants, polishing teeth, applying fluoride treatments.	Direct supervision, formal education and exam or 5 years prior experience and exam	Expanded Function(s) Dental Assistant-EFDA Dental Assistant
RHODE ISLAND	Dental Assistant Certified Dental Assistant	Various Sealants, Coronal polishing	Supervision. Supervision and academic training, DANB-CDA exam.	Dental Assistant DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®)

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
SOUTH CAROLINA	Dental Assistant Expanded Duty Dental Assistant	Take x-rays. Various. Coronal polishing, monitor nitrous oxide, place temporary restorations, apply sealants.	Direct supervision and board-approved radiation safety course. Direct supervision; certificate from approved program or 2 years chairside experience	Dental Assistant Expanded Duties Dental Assistant-EDDA
SOUTH DAKOTA	Dental Assistant Advanced Dental Assistant	Coronal polishing; supragingival scaling (per 2004) Survey of Delegable Duties Take X-rays	Direct supervision; Graduation from approved DA school or DANB-CDA & dental board course	Dental Assistant Advanced Dental Assistant
TENNESSEE	Practical Dental Assistant Registered Dental Assistant Certified Dental Assistant	Various Monitor nitrous oxide, coronal polishing, apply sealants All the above plus take final impressions and place and contour restoratives.	Direct supervision, on-the-job-training Direct supervision, training, exam, Board permits Direct supervision, training, exam, Board permits	Practical Dental Assistant Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)
TEXAS	Registered Dental Assistants DAs who are Sealant Certified	Take x-rays Prep teeth for & apply sealants	Register with Board, Certified by DANB and pass board exam. CE. 2 yrs. experience, 16 hours clinical & didactic instruction, 6 hrs CE annually	Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded Duties/Functions Dental Assistant
UTAH	Dental Assistant	Coronal polishing, help administer nitrous oxide Take x-rays	Direct Supervision Approved course and exam	Dental Assistant
VERMONT	Traditional Dental Assistant Certified Dental Assistant Expanded Function Dental Assistant	Take x-rays Functions for which CDA is trained Coronal polishing Functions for which EFDA is trained including placing & condensing amalgam and place & finish composite	Supervision and: Special Board endorsement DANB Exam Formal training in CODA-approved program	Traditional Dental Assistant DANB Certified Dental Assistant (CDA®) Expanded Function(s) Dental Assistant-EFDA

STATE	TITLE	EXPANDED FUNCTIONS(S)	QUALIFICATIONS	DANB JOB TITLES*
VIRGINIA	Dental Assistant	Apply fluoride or desensitizing agent, Coronal polishing Take x-rays	Supervision, approved training and certificate Supervision, approved course and/or exam	Dental Assistant
	Dental Assistant II – (essentially an EFDA)	DA II functions include Performing pulp capping procedures; 2. Packing and carving of amalgam restorations; 3. Placing and shaping composite resin restorations; 4. Taking final impressions; 5. Use of a non-epinephrine retraction cord; and 6. Final cementation of crowns and bridges after adjustment and fitting by the dentist.	DA II Qualifications include specified hours of didactic education, clinical training and experience and examination in modules for the performance of specific duties delegated under direct supervision. DANB certified.	
WASHINGTON	Registered Dental Assistant RDA	Monitor nitrous oxide, Take x-rays; coronal polishing; apply sealants	Close supervision (Registration required as of July 1, 2008).	Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)
	Expanded Function Dental Assistant	Above functions under general supervision. Place and carve restoratives; take final impressions under close supervision.	Licensure - requirement completing CODA DA program or DANB certification plus experience. (See 2007 HB 1099).	Licensed Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary
	School Sealant DA	Apply sealants and fluoride varnish	General supervision.	Dental Assistant
	Rules define a "Noncredentialed person"	Duties not clear probably basic dental assisting	Close supervision.	
WEST VIRGINIA	Dental Assistant	Take x-rays Place topical fluoride, apply sealants, place retraction cord, coronal polish, place temporary space maintainers for ortho purposes, monitor nitrous oxide administration	Direct supervision Board-approved course and exam	Dental Assistant
	Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded	apply anti-cariogenic agents, apply pit and fissure sealant, apply acid etch,	Direct supervision	Dental Assistant Qualified In or To Perform Expanded Duties/Functions

	Duties/Functions	coronal polishing, place retraction cords, monitor nitrous oxide	Board-approved course and exam	
WISCONSIN	Dental Assistant	Coronal polishing	None	Dental Assistant
WYOMING	Dental Assistant	Coronal polishing but not as a prophy procedure. Various. Take X-rays	Supervision. X-Ray approved course or experience or DANB-CDA exam	Dental Assistant

Note: Sources of information – State laws, and regulations, and "ADA Survey of Legal Provisions for Delegating Intraoral Functions to Dental Assistants and Dental Hygienists"; Dental Assisting National Board's (DANB) State Fact Booklet; DANB exams; CDA=Certified Dental Assistant; RHS=Radiation Health & Safety; ICE=Infection Control Exam; COA=Certified Orthodontic Exam.

*DANB reports these job titles for each state, which was taken from position paper of the *ADAA/DANB Alliance: Addressing A Uniform National Model For the Dental Assisting Profession*, September 2006. The ADA has not verified these titles.

Statement of how this document was compiled - Dental Practice Acts and Board regulations were reviewed to obtain a "snapshot" of some of the functions dental assistants are allowed to perform and the level of education, training, certification or licensure required. This is not comprehensive. The information in this document is limited to what is found in state dental practice acts and dental board regulations. State Laws and regulations are ever changing the material in this document may not be the most current. Policies of dental boards, opinions of state attorneys general, and court decisions may have an effect on how these laws are interpreted. You are advised to contact the dental board for the state of your interest to determine how the laws and regulations are applied in that state. If you believe any of the information contained herein needs updating please contact the ADA Department of State Government Affairs. A comprehensive resource is the "State Fact Booklet" from the Dental Assisting National Board that is available for purchase by calling 1-800-FOR-DANB.