

Lincoln Dental Assistants Association

January 11, 2015

Dear Technical Review Committee:

As President of Lincoln Dental Assistants Association, I have summarized below concerns expressed to me by current members, student members, and the association as a whole. Legislative updates have been given to our members at monthly meetings in order to keep them informed of the 407 proposals. It is unanimous that our association is in opposition to the Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association proposal and in support of the Nebraska Dental Association and Nebraska Dental Assistants Association proposal.

For example, Nebraska Dental Hygienists' Association has proposed to change the current supervision given to dental assistants while performing radiographs from general to indirect supervision. This duty currently requires education and proof of competency before the duty can be performed. A change of this sort would only restrict the current practice of the dental team. Therefore, a modification of this sort would not be supported by LDAA.

In addition to the NDHA proposed change of supervision, the elimination of the Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) is another great concern. As an active member of the Task Force, this is a disappointment and setback for the dental team as a whole. Removal of this level in combination with the supervision change is not supported by LDAA.

Another area of concern is the level of supervision NDHA has proposed for the Registered Dental Hygienist and the Expanded Function Registered Dental Hygienist to practice under. The proposal would allow for both to perform all duties under general supervision. Listed below are **several** duties proposed that LDAA sees as a safety concern to the patient if performed under general supervision by a RDH or EFRDH.

- Extraction of teeth with **Class IV mobility – undefined**
- Administration of Local Anesthesia and Reversal Agents
- Enameloplasty Sealant Technique
- Place and finish dental restorations and preparation of Class I and Class V restorations

In conclusion, LDAA supports creating a scope of practice for the dental assistant with a tier approach and expanding the scope of the dental hygienist with indirect supervision.

Thank you for your time and dedication throughout the entire 407 review process.

Sincerely,

Amanda Skuban, BS, CDA
President, Lincoln Dental Assistants Association