

OREGON DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

POSITION STATEMENT

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF AN EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL ASSISTANT

PIT AND FISSURE SEALANTS

Within the Code of Ethics for member dentists of the Oregon Dental Association is the section on objectives of service to the public. This section establishes the obligation of the dentist to deliver care competently and timely. Quality of care is to be a primary consideration of the dental practitioner. Also included within the Code of Ethics, is the privilege of dentists to be accorded professional status by virtue of the knowledge, skill, and experience with which they serve their patients and society.

Sharing the same principal, the Oregon Dental Assistants Association objective for its members and all dental assistants is to support and encourage continued education, and to maintain the highest standards of performance.

The Oregon Dental Assistants, believes all patients must receive this commitment of the highest standard of performance and reaffirms it's position that all expanded functions tasks delegated to dental assistants must be granted only to those assistants who possess EFDA certification as defined by the Oregon Board of Dentistry. Such expanded functions should be performed under indirect supervision of the dentist or dental hygienist.

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association further believes that the needs of the public are best met by dental assistants who have demonstrated their knowledge and competency by holding the required EFDA credential and successfully passing an Oregon Board of Dentistry approved course. This course must include a written exam, laboratory and clinical competency for placing pit and fissure sealants.

The Oregon Dental Assistants Association supports the position that all educational courses preparing candidates for placing sealants should be comparable to similar courses taken by dental hygiene students.

Upon successful completion of a course of instruction in a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, or other course of instruction approved by the Board, a certified Expanded Function Dental Assistant may perform the following functions under the indirect supervision of a dentist or hygienist providing that the procedure is checked by the dentist or dental hygienist prior to the patient being dismissed.

OAR 818-042-0090 (1) Apply pit and fissure sealants providing the patient is examined before the sealants are placed. The sealants must be placed within 45 days of the procedure being authorized by a dentist or dental hygienist.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act dated January 1, 2014, Division 42 OAR 818-042-0090 is the basis for this position statement.

Implemented historically 9-1999.

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