

OREGON DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

POSITION STATEMENT

DENTAL RADIOLOGY

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. The 2012 Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act, section 679.140 describes this requirement in standard of care.

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 clinical expertise and knowledge in placing, exposing traditional or digital radiographs.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry recognizes the written testing by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) and a satisfactory set of clinical radiographs with a passing grade. The Oregon Dental Assistants Association believes the public needs are best met by dental assistants who have demonstrated their knowledge and competencies by meeting a standardized DANB Radiological Health and Safety exam – known as RHS, and submitting a passing set of dental radiographs.

Reference: The Oregon Board of Dentistry, Dental Practice Act dated July 2012.

Division 42 818-042-0050 states:

A dentist may authorize the following persons to place films, adjust equipment preparatory to exposing films, and expose the films under general supervision:

- a) a dental assistant certified by the Board in radiologic proficiency; or
- b) a dentist may authorize students in approved instructional programs to take dental x-rays under the conditions established by the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Public Health Division, Office of Environmental Public Health, Radiation Protection Services, in OAR 333 Division 106.

Division 42 818-042-0060 states:

- 1) The Board may certify a dental assistant in radiologic proficiency by credential in accordance with OAR 818-042-0120 and 818-042-0130. This reference is in regard to dental assistants moving to Oregon who have had similar training and the methods in which one can apply for certification by credential.
- 2) Or if the assistant: submits and application on a form approved by the Board, pays the

application fee and:

- a) completes a course of instruction in a program approved by the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Public Health Division, Office of Environmental Public Health, Radiation Protection Services, or the Oregon Board of Dentistry, in accordance with OAR 333-106-0555 or submits evidence that RPS recognizes that the equivalent training has been successfully completed;
- b) Passes the written Dental Radiation Health and Safety Examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB), or comparable exam administered by any other testing entity authorized by the Board, or other comparable requirements approved by the Oregon board of Dentistry; and
- c) Passes a clinical examination approved by the Board and graded by the Dental Assisting National Board, Inc.(DANB) or any other testing entity authorized by the Board, consisting of exposing, developing and mounting a full mouth series of radiographs or by exposing and mounting a digital full mouth series of radiographic images (14 to 18 periapical and 4 bitewing radiographs or images) within one hour and under the supervision of a person permitted to take radiographs in Oregon. No portion of the clinical examination may be completed in advance; a maximum of three retakes in permitted (three individual radiographic exposures, not three full mouth series; only the applicant may determine the necessity of retakes. The radiographs or images should be acquired on an adult patient with at least 24 fully erupted teeth. The full mouth series must be submitted for grading within six months after it is taken.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act dated January 1, 2014, Division 42 OAR 818-042-0050 and OAR 818-42-0060 are the basis for this position statement.

Implemented historically 9-1999.

Presented: January 2014

Adopted: February 15, 2014

Amended: March 15, 2014