

# OREGON DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

## POSITION STATEMENT

### EXPANDED FUNCTION ORTHODONTIC DENTAL ASSISTANT

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 Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act regarding this expanded function was amended January 1, 2014.

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 EFODA certification as defined by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry in June 1992 recognized pathways to become an Expanded Function Orthodontic Dental Assistant by written testing by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB), clinical recognition by accredited programs and in certain situations clinical recognition through office evaluation.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act dated January 1, 2014, Division 42 OAR 818-042-0100 is the basis for this position statement.

1. An EFODA may perform the following duties **under indirect supervision** of a licensed dentist:
  - a) Remove orthodontic bands and brackets and attachments with removal of the bonding material and cement. An ultrasonic scaler, hand scaler or low speed handpiece may be used. Use of a high speed handpiece is prohibited;
  - b) Select and try for the fit of orthodontic bands;
  - c) Recement loose orthodontic bands;
  - d) Place and remove orthodontic separators;
  - e) Prepare teeth for bonding or placement of orthodontic appliances and select, pre-position and cure of orthodontic brackets, attachments and/or retainers after position has been approved by the supervising licensed dentist;
  - f) Fit and adjust headgear;
  - g) Remove fixed orthodontic appliances;

- h) Remove and replace orthodontic wires. Place and ligate arch wires. Place elastic ligatures or chains as directed;
  - i) Cut arch wires; and
  - j) Take impressions for study models or temporary oral devices such as, but not limited to space maintainers, orthodontic retainers and occlusal guards.
2. An EFODA may perform the following duties **under general supervision** of a licensed dentist:
- a) An expanded function orthodontic assistant may remove any portion of an orthodontic appliance causing patient discomfort and in the process may replace ligatures and/or separators if the dentist is not available, providing that the patient is scheduled for follow up care by a licensed dentist as soon as is reasonable appropriate.
  - b) An expanded function dental assistant may recement orthodontic bands if the dentist is not available and the patient is in discomfort, providing that the patient is scheduled for follow up care by a licensed dentist as soon as is reasonable appropriate.

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 EFODA credential and successfully passing an Oregon Board of Dentistry approved course.

Implemented historically 9-1999.

Presented: January 2014

Adopted: February 15, 2014

Amended: March 15, 2014