

OREGON DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

POSITION STATEMENT

EXPANDED FUNCTION 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 2012 Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act, section 679.140 describes this requirement.

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 Association, believes all patients must receive this commitment of the highest standard of performance and reaffirms its position that all expanded function tasks delegated to dental assistants must be granted only to those assistants who possess EFDA certification as defined by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry in June 1992 recognized pathways to become an Expanded Function 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.

In 2014, the Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act, Division 42, 818-042-0070 recognized the following as EFDA duties to be performed under indirect supervision of a licensed dentist or general supervision of a dental hygienist (OAR 818-042-0020). The following EFDA duties may be performed only after the dental assistant complies with the requirements of OAR 818-042-0080 (presenting an application, paying the required fee, providing evidence of an Oregon Radiological Proficiency Certificate and provides evidence of training).

Legal EFDA duties are as follows:

- a) coronal polish as long as teeth are free of calculus
- b) remove temporary crowns for final cementation and clean teeth for final cementation
- c) preliminarily fit crowns to check contacts or to adjust occlusion outside the mouth
- d) place temporary restorative material in teeth providing the patient is checked before and after the procedure
- e) place and remove matrix retainers for amalgam and composite restorations
- f) polish amalgam or composite restorations with a slow speed handpiece
- g) remove excess supragingival cement from crowns, bridges, bands or brackets with hand instruments providing that the patient is checked by a dentist after the procedure
- h) fabricate temporary crowns and temporarily cement the temporary crown. The crown must be examined and approved by a dentist before the patient is released
- i) under general supervision when the dentist is not available and the patient is in discomfort, an

EFDA may re-cement a temporary and/or permanent crown with temporary cement for a patient of record providing that the patient is scheduled for follow up care
j) perform all aspects of tooth whitening procedures.

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.

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

Implemented historically 9-1999.

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June 10, 2017