

OREGON DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION

POSITION STATEMENT

ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF AN EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL ASSISTANT

RESTORATIVE 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. 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 administered by WREB in various locations throughout Oregon.

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

Division 42 818-042-0095 states:

- (1) The Board shall issue a Restorative Functions Certificate (RFC) to a dental assistant who holds an Oregon EFDA Certificate, and has successfully completed:
 - (a) A Board approved curriculum from a program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association or other course of instruction approved by the Board, and successfully passed the Western Regional Examining Board's Restorative Examination or other equivalent examinations approved by the Board with the last five years, or

(b) If successful passage of the Western Regional Examining Board's Restorative Examination or other equivalent examinations approved by the Board occurred over five years from the date of application, the applicant must submit verification from another state or jurisdiction where the applicant is legally authorized to perform restorative functions and certification from the supervising dentist of successful completion of at least 25 restorative procedures within the immediate five years from the date of application.

(2) A dental assistant may perform the placement and finishing of direct alloy or direct composite restorations, under the indirect supervision of a licensed dentist, after the supervising dentist has prepared the tooth (teeth) for restoration(s):

(a) These functions can only be performed after the patient has given informed consent for the procedure and informed consent for the placement of the restoration by a Restorative Functions dental assistant.

(b) Before the patient is released, the final restoration(s) shall be checked by a dentist and documented in the chart.

The Oregon Board of Dentistry Dental Practice Act dated July 1, 2012, Division 42 rule 818-042-0095 is the basis for this position statement.

Implemented historically in 11-2007. Updated in 10-2013, Updated 01-2016

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