

Specialty Assistant Permit Duties – Effective January 1, 2010

Orthodontic Assistant Permit Duties

A DA, RDA, or RDAEF holding an orthodontic assistant permit may perform the following duties under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist:

Direct supervision:

1. All duties that a dental assistant is allowed to perform.
2. Prepare teeth for bonding, and select, preposition, and cure orthodontic brackets after their position has been approved by the supervising licensed dentist.
3. Remove only orthodontic brackets and attachments with removal of the bonding material by the supervising licensed dentist.
4. Size, fit, and cement orthodontic bands.
5. Remove orthodontic bands and remove excess cement from supragingival surfaces of teeth with a hand instrument.
6. Place and ligate archwires.
7. Remove excess cement with an ultrasonic scaler from supragingival surfaces of teeth undergoing orthodontic treatment.
8. Any additional duties that the board may prescribe by regulation.

Dental Sedation Assistant Permit Duties

A DA, RDA, or RDAEF holding a dental sedation assistant permit may perform the following duties under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist or other licensed health care professional authorized to administer conscious sedation or general anesthesia in the dental office:

Direct supervision:

1. All duties that a dental assistant is allowed to perform.
2. Monitor patients undergoing conscious sedation or general anesthesia utilizing data from noninvasive instrumentation such as pulse oximeters, electrocardiograms, capnography, blood pressure, pulse, and respiration rate monitoring devices. Evaluation of the condition of a sedated patient shall remain the responsibility of the dentist or other licensed health care professional authorized to administer conscious sedation or general anesthesia, who shall be at the patient's chairside while conscious sedation or general anesthesia is being administered.
3. Drug identification and draw, limited to identification of appropriate medications, ampule and vial preparation, and withdrawing drugs of correct amount as verified by the supervising licensed dentist.
4. Add drugs, medications, and fluids to intravenous lines using a syringe, provided that a supervising licensed dentist is present at the patient's chairside, limited to determining patency of intravenous line, selection of injection port, syringe insertion into injection port, occlusion of intravenous line and blood aspiration, line release and injection of drugs for appropriate time interval. The exception to this duty is that the initial dose of a drug or medication shall be administered by the supervising licensed dentist.
5. Removal of intravenous lines.
6. Any additional duties that the board may prescribe by regulation.
7. The duties listed in numbers (2) to (5), inclusive, may not be performed in any setting other than a dental office or dental clinic.

Specialty Assistant Permit Requirements – Effective January 1, 2010

In order to obtain either permit, an unlicensed dental assistant must have 12 months of work experience; complete California Dental Practice Act, infection control and basic life support courses; complete a board-approved course specific to each permit (84 hours for OAP; 110 hours for DSAP); and pass a state-administered written examination. RDAs and RDAEFs who apply for the OAP will not be required to complete additional training in the following overlapping RDA duties: placing ligature ties and archwires, removing orthodontic bands, and removing excess cement from tooth surfaces with a hand instrument.

Permit holders will be required to renew their permits every two years and complete continuing education similar to that of the RDA. If the permit holder is an RDAs or RDAEF, completion of the continuing education units for the RDA or RDAEF license will satisfy the continuing education requirement for the permit.