

# Proposal for Licensure for Nebraska Dental Assistants

## By the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association

### **Classifications:**

#### **Dental Aide:**

This is an individual who has not graduated from a dental assisting program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) and has not passed the Nebraska Dental Assistant Licensure Exam. This individual shall have received a high school diploma and attained the age of 18, and will be able to perform intraoral procedures only under the supervision of a licensed Dentist, Registered Dental Hygienist or Licensed Dental Assistant.

According to OSHA Standards any dental employee must receive OSHA Training in Bloodborne Pathogens and Hazardous Communication Standards within ten (10) days of employment and must update annually thereafter.

A Dental Aide may perform under the General Supervision of a licensed dentist, licensed hygienist or licensed dental assistant:

- Receive and prepare patients for treatment, including seating, positioning chair, and placing napkin.
- Prepare procedural trays/armamentaria setups.
- Perform sterilization and disinfection procedures.
- Process dental radiographs.
- Select and manipulate gypsums and waxes.
- Provide pre and post-operative instructions.
- Fabricate custom trays, to include impression and bleaching trays, and athletic mouthguards.
- Pour, trim and evaluate the quality of diagnostic casts.

A Dental Aide may perform under the Direct Supervision of a licensed dentist, licensed hygienist or licensed dental assistant:

- Transfer Dental Instruments.
- Mix Dental Materials.
- Maintain field of operation during dental procedures through the use of retraction, suction, irrigation, drying, placing and removing cotton rolls, etc.
- Chart existing restorations or conditions.

#### **Licensed Dental Assistant:**

This individual:

- Has attained the age of 18.

- Shall have graduated from a dental assisting program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).
- Shall be currently certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Shall have passed an examination approved by the Nebraska Board of Dentistry.
- Shall complete thirty (30) continuing education credits every two years. Six hours will be in infection control and 4 hours in jurisprudence.

A Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA) may perform under the **General Supervision** of a licensed dentist or licensed dental hygienist all the functions of a Dental Aide and the following procedures:

- Expose and mount radiographs. (**See Grandfather Provision**)
- Assessment/Screening, determines the potential for dental or oral disease, pathology or abnormality (not to include diagnosis).
- Place temporary fillings.
- Cement temporary crowns.
- Perform coronal polishing procedures. (**See Grandfather Provision**)
- Place and remove periodontal dressings.
- Provide patient preventive education and oral hygiene instruction.
- Take and record vital signs.
- Clean and polish removable appliances and prostheses.
- Apply topical fluoride.
- Take diagnostic, preliminary or opposing arch impressions for diagnostic and opposing models.
- Take impressions for bleaching trays, temporary crowns and bridges, sports guards, space maintainers, orthodontic appliances and occlusal guards.
- Assist in the management of medical and dental emergencies.
- Replace or remove dressings from alveolar sockets in post-operative osteitis when the patient is uncomfortable due to the loss of a dressing from an alveolar socket in diagnosed cases of post-operative osteitis.

A Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA) may perform under the **Indirect Supervision** of a licensed dentist the following procedures:

- Remove sutures.
- Place liners and bases.
- Remove periodontal dressings.
- Intra-orally size, fabricate, place and remove temporary crowns and cements.
- Size and fit stainless steel crowns.
- Take bite registrations for diagnostic models for study casts.
- Perform pulp vitality tests.
- Dry canals with absorbent points.
- Remove permanent cement from supragingival surfaces with hand instrument.
- Place and remove post-extraction dressings.

- Place and remove rubber dam.
- Monitor vital signs.
- Apply topical anesthetic to the injection site.
- Apply and activate bleaching agents with non-laser light-curing device.
- Cure restorative or orthodontic materials in operative site with light-curing device.
- Prepare enamel and dentin for bonding by etching.
- Place, wedge and remove matrices.
- Perform Oral Brush Biopsy
- Apply desensitizing agents.
- Monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia with current CPR.

A Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA) may perform under the Direct Supervision by a licensed dentist the following procedures:

- Add medications to intravenous lines in the presence of a licensed dentist.

**GRANDFATHERING: Any dental assistant may apply to become a Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA) for a period of one year from the effective date of the law. A dental assistant applying for licensure under the grandfathering provision must show proof of completion of Nebraska Board of Dentistry approved or an ADA Accredited Dental Assisting approved courses in Dental Radiology, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation and Coronal Polish.**

#### **Licensed Dental Assistant-Sealants (LDA-S)**

This individual:

- Has attained the age of 18.
- Shall be a Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA).
- Shall be currently certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Shall be a currently Licensed Dental Assistant and have successfully completed an Expanded Function Sealant course that is taught didactically and to clinical competency at a dental assisting program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Minimum requirements of this course will be two-day, fourteen (14) hour course of didactic and laboratory curriculum.
- Has passed a written state-specific expanded function in Sealants by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exam.

A LDA-S may perform all the functions of a LDA and perform the following under the Indirect Supervision of a licensed dentist:

- Apply pit and fissure sealants.

#### **Licensed Dental Assistant-Expanded Function (LDA-EF)**

This individual:

- Has attained the age of 18.
- Shall be a Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA).
- Shall be currently certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
- Shall have successfully completed a Licensed Dental Assistant - Expanded Function course that is taught didactically and to pre-clinical competency at a dental assisting program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Minimum requirements of this course will be sixty-four (64) hours of didactic and laboratory curriculum. There will be an externship whereby the dentist will evaluate the expanded function dental assistant candidate to clinical competency before the candidate may apply for the expanded function license. The patient requirements may be completed up to one year after completion of course work.
- Shall have passed a written state-specific expanded function Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) exam.
- Shall complete thirty (30) continuing education credits every two years. Six hours will be in infection control and 4 hours in jurisprudence.

A Licensed Dental Assistant-Expanded Function (LDA-EF) may perform all the functions of an LDA as previously listed and under Indirect Supervision of a licensed dentist perform the following:

- Place and remove retraction cord.
- Place, cure and finish composite resin or glass ionomer restorations.
- Place, condense and carve amalgam restorations.
- Polish and contour restorations for preventive purposes.
- Take final impressions for restorations and removable prosthesis.
- Remove temporary fillings with hand instruments.
- Remove excess cement from coronal surfaces of teeth (other than for orthodontic treatment) by means of an ultrasonic scaler.
- Remove excess cement from supragingival surfaces of teeth with hand instruments or floss (other than for temporary restorations).
- Make adjustments (minor) to removable dentures, partial dentures and orthodontic appliances (tissue bearing areas only), after the dentist has examined the patient and given verbal/written instructions.
- Bite registrations for final prosthetic devices.

**Licensed Dental Assistant-Ortho Expanded Function (LDA-OEF)**

This individual:

- Has attained the age of 18.
- Shall be a Nebraska Licensed Dental Assistant (LDA).
- Shall be currently certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

- Shall have successfully completed a Licensed Dental Assistant – Ortho Expanded Function course that is taught didactically and to pre-clinical competency at a dental assisting program accredited by the American Dental Association Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA). Minimum requirements of this course will be sixty-four (64) hours of didactic and laboratory curriculum. There will be an externship whereby the dentist will evaluate the expanded function dental assistant candidate to clinical competency before the candidate may apply for the expanded function license. The patient requirements may be completed up to one year after completion of course work.
- Shall complete thirty (30) continuing education credits every two years. Six hours will be in infection control and 4 hours in jurisprudence.
- Shall have passed a written state-specific orthodontic expanded function Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) examination.

A Licensed Dental Assistant-Ortho Expanded Function (LDA-OEF) may perform all the functions of an LDA as previously listed and under General Supervision of a licensed dentist perform the following:

- Preliminary positioning indirect bracket on a model.
- Take intra-oral measurements for orthodontic procedures.
- Tie, place or remove ligatures on arch wires.
- Place and remove elastic orthodontic separators.
- Remove loose bands and brackets.

A Licensed Dental Assistant-Ortho Expanded Function (LDA-OEF) may perform all the functions of an LDA as previously listed and under Indirect Supervision of a licensed dentist perform the following:

- Arch wires, orthodontic bending (extra-orally). The dentist must verify.
- Place simple arch wires.
- Tie in arch wires.
- Remove arch wires.
- Place orthodontic bands. The dentist must verify placement before cementation.
- Remove orthodontic bands.
- Size orthodontic bands.
- Preliminarily place brackets.
- Tray placement of indirect bracket (final position must be checked by the dentist before wire placement).
- Place (other than elastic) orthodontic separators.
- Prepare enamel and dentin for bonding by etching.
- Rebonding of loose brackets.
- Recementing of bands.
- Removal of bonded brackets.

- Removal of bracket adhesive or cement from coronal surfaces of teeth with hand instrument.
- Bonding of fixed retainers.
- Seat and adjust removable passive retainers.

Reciprocity: Any dental assistant that has graduated from an ADA Accredited Dental Assisting Program and is a Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) Currently Certified Dental Assistant shall be granted licensure upon application and payment of fees.

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