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Article XVII
DENTAL ASSISTANT FUNCTIONS

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A. ALL FUNCTIONS DELEGATED TO A DENTAL ASSISTANT MUST BE PERFORMED UNDER PERSONAL SUPERVISION. PERSONAL SUPERVISION MEANS:

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1. The Dentist is in the office or treatment facility.
 2. The Dentist has personally diagnosed the condition to be treated.
 3. The Dentist has personally authorized the procedures.
 4. The Dentist remains in the office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed.
 5. The Dentist evaluates the performance of the Dental Assistant before the dismissal of the patient.

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The supervising licensed Dentist is responsible for determining the appropriateness of delegation of any specific function based upon knowledge of the skills of the assistant, the needs of the patient, the requirements of the task and whether proof of competence is required.

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The Dentist is ultimately responsible for patient care. Nothing contained in the authority given the Dentist by this rule to delegate the performance of certain procedures shall in any way relieve the supervising Dentist from the liability to the patient for negligent performance by a Dental Assistant.

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B. DEFINITIONS

1. Dental Assistant: A staff member of a duly licensed Dentist who is involved in direct patient care to include a Certified Dental Assistant or a Registered Dental Assistant.
2. Registered Dental Assistant: A Dental Assistant who has obtained a permit(s) from the Board to perform any or all of the following expanded duties:
 - a. Administration of nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia
 - b. Operation of dental radiographic equipment
 - c. Coronal polishing
 - d. Monitoring of patients undergoing deep sedation or general anesthesia

Certified Dental Assistant: A Dental Assistant who is currently certified by the Dental Assistant National Board.

C. TASKS AUTHORIZED TO BE PERFORMED BY DENTAL ASSISTANTS

With the exceptions listed below, a Dental Assistant may perform any dental task or procedure assigned by the supervising dentist to the assistant that does not require the professional skills of a licensed Dentist or licensed dental hygienist, but only under the personal supervision of a licensed Dentist on the premises. These duties may only be delegated when the effect of the procedure assigned is reversible.

1 **D. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

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3 The responsibility for diagnosis, treatment planning, or the prescription of
4 medications in the practice of dentistry shall remain with a licensed
5 Dentist and may not be assigned or delegated to a Dental Assistant. No
6 dental procedure that will contribute to or result in an irreversible
7 alteration of the oral anatomy may be performed by anyone other than a
8 licensed Dentist. The following activities are prohibited for dental
9 assistants:

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11 1. Diagnosis and treatment planning
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13 2. Scaling, root planing and curettage
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15 3. Surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissue.
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17 4. Prescription, injection, inhalation, and parenteral administration of
18 drugs (except where permitted by the Board)
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20 5. Placement, seating, or removal of any final or permanent restorations.
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22 6. Final placement of orthodontic brackets
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24 7. Any procedure that contributes to or results in irreversible alteration of
25 the oral anatomy
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27 8. Performance of any of the following expanded duties without a
28 permit:
29 Administration of nitrous oxide/oxygen analgesia
30 Operation of dental radiographic equipment
31 Coronal polishing
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33 9. Those functions relegated to a dental hygienist and stated in
34 Regulation XI A.
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36 **E. REGISTERED DENTAL ASSISTANT EXPANDED FUNCTION PERMITS**

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38 It is the responsibility of the Dental Assistant to provide the Arkansas State
39 Board of Dental Examiners with proof of competence in the desired
40 expanded function prior to receiving a permit from the Board.
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- 42 1. A Dental Assistant may induce and monitor nitrous oxide/oxygen
43 analgesia after successful completion of a course approved by the
44 Board and the payment of a designated fee. At this time a permit will
45 be issued.
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47 2. A Dental Assistant may operate dental radiographic equipment after
48 successful completion of an education course as approved by the
49 Board and submits proof of competency by passing an examination
50 and the payment of a designated fee. At this time, a permit will be
51 issued.
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53 3. A Dental Assistant may perform coronal polishing after successful

1 completion of education requirements as approved by the Board and
2 submits proof of competency by passing such examination as the
3 Board requires, and the payment of a designated fee. At this time a
4 permit will be issued.

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6 4. A Dental Assistant may monitor patients who are under deep sedation
7 or general anesthesia only in offices where the dentist(s) is permitted
8 to perform those services, after successful completion of educational
9 requirements as approved by the Board and submits proof of
10 competency by passing such examination as the Board requires and
11 the payment of a designated fee. At that time, a permit will be
12 issued.

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14 4.5 A Certified Dental Assistant, or an assistant who is a graduate of a
15 school which is accredited or provisionally accredited by the Council
16 on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, need
17 only submit proof of graduation or certification to the Board along
18 with the designated fee and a permit will be issued for any expanded
19 duty requested except Sedation Monitoring.

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21 After receipt of one or more of the expanded function permits, the Dental
22 Assistant will then be considered a Registered Dental Assistant with the
23 Board. Those permits must be on display within the dental office or
24 treatment facility.

25 26 27 **F. PROCESS FOR OBTAINING PERMIT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF NITROUS OXIDE**

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29 A Dental Assistant desiring to obtain an expanded duty permit for nitrous
30 oxide/oxygen analgesia from the Board must do the following:

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32 1. Successfully complete a nitrous oxide administration and monitoring
33 course as approved by the Board.
34 2. Submit a copy of the certificate of completion to the Board along
35 with any designated fee.
36 3. Successfully complete a jurisprudence examination covering the
37 Dental Practice Act and rules of the Board.
38 4. Show proof of current certification in healthcare provider level of CPR.

39 40 **G. PROCESS FOR OBTAINING PERMIT FOR RADIOGRAPHY AND/OR CORONAL** 41 **POLISHING**

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43 A Dental Assistant desiring to obtain an expanded duty permit for
44 radiography and/or coronal polishing from the Board must do the
45 following:

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47 1. Request the educational packet from the Board for the desired permit
48 and pay the appropriate fee.
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50 2. Successfully complete the examination or clinical checklist
51 administered by the supervising Dentist as provided by the Board, and
52 return the required materials to the Board.
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3. Successfully complete a jurisprudence examination covering the Dental Practice Act and rules of the Board.
4. Show proof of healthcare provider level of CPR.

H. PROCESS FOR OBTAINING PERMIT FOR SEDATION MONITORING

A Dental Assistant desiring to obtain an expanded duty permit for sedation monitoring from the Board must do the following:

1. Hold a current permit for nitrous oxide administration.
2. Hold and show proof of a current certification in health care provider level of cardiopulmonary resuscitation
3. Be a Certified Dental Assistant, Registered Dental Assistant, Registered Nurse or Licensed Practical Nurse
4. Submit proof of successful completion of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons Anesthesia Assistant's training program or a Board approved equivalent course within the two year period immediately previous to submitting an application to be a Sedation Assistant.
5. Successfully complete a jurisprudence examination covering the Dental Practice Act and rules of the Board.
6. Exemptions: Licensed physicians with a specialty in anesthesiology and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists are exempt from the educational and permit requirements listed in this section. Other licensed healthcare providers, who can show proof of successful completion of a course which meets or exceeds those listed in this regulation, may obtain an exemption from the Board on a case by case basis.

HI. SAID PERMITS MUST BE RENEWED ON FORMS AS PROVIDED BY THE BOARD PURSUANT TO ARK. CODE ANN 17-82-405. As stated in that section of the Code, the procedures for registration and penalties for failure to register permits of dentists as stated in 17-82-310 through 17-82-314 will apply to the registration of permits by dental assistants.

IJ. A Registered Dental Assistant must provide the Board proof of completing 2 hours of Continuing Education each 2-year reporting period on the subject of infection control in order to renew a permit to perform expanded duties. The Registered Dental Assistant must report the Continuing Education hours in the manner set forth in Article XIV of the Board.

Separated from Article XI and approved 1/12/01; amended 8/23/02 and 4/29/05.