



## Tables of Permitted Duties

Following are two separate tables of duties. The first table outlines the functions which Dental Assistants (DA), Registered Dental Assistants (RDA), Registered Dental Assistants in Extended Functions (RDAEF), Orthodontic Assistants (OA), and Dental Sedation Assistants (DSA) are allowed to perform in California. The second table lists the duties Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH), Registered Dental Hygienists in Extended Functions (RDHEF), and Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice (RHDAP) are allowed to perform. These tables are intended to provide summary information to interested parties. It is not intended to cover all aspects of applicable laws or provide a substitute for reviewing the laws that are cross-referenced below. It is highly recommended that applicants and licensees review the actual text of the laws cited at the link provided below. If a duty is not listed in the sections of law cited below, the dental auxiliaries are NOT allowed to perform the duty. Under each category of dental auxiliary is one of the following notations:

**"N"** means that the dental auxiliary is **NOT permitted** to perform the duty.

**"D"** means that the dental auxiliary may perform the duty under the **Direct supervision of a dentist**, which means supervision of dental procedures based on instructions given by a licensed dentist who must be physically present in the treatment facility during the performance of those procedures. The duty must be performed pursuant to the order, control and full professional responsibility of the supervising dentist. Procedures performed by Registered Dental Assistants in Extended Functions must be checked and approved by the supervising dentist prior to dismissal of the patient from the office of said dentist.

**"C"** means that the dental auxiliary may perform the duty in the **specified setting** under the supervision of a dentist, Registered Dental Hygienist, or Registered Dental Hygienist in Alternative Practice.

**"G"** means that the dental auxiliary can perform the duty under the **General supervision of a dentist**, which means based on instructions given by a licensed dentist, but not requiring the physical presence of the supervising dentist during the performance of those procedures. This is not the same as the "Without Supervision" designation in the dental hygiene table.

**"DD"** The supervising licensed **dentist shall be responsible for determining** whether each authorized procedure performed by a registered dental assistant should be performed under general or direct supervision, except as provided in Section 1777.

The sections of law noted below are contained in the Dental Practice Act located in Chapter 4, Division 2 of the California Business and Professions Code (BPC) and in Title 16, Sections 1085-1089 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR).

For the actual text of the laws, the following link will take you to the page on the Dental Board's web site

[https://www.dbc.ca.gov/about\\_us/lawsregs/index.shtml](https://www.dbc.ca.gov/about_us/lawsregs/index.shtml).

**Procedures Dental Auxiliaries Are Not Allowed to Perform**

Duty	Section of Applicable Law
<b>Diagnosis and comprehensive treatment planning</b>	BPC 1750.1 and 1908 16CCR 1090
<b>Prescribing medication</b>	BPC 1750.1 and 1908 16CCR 1090
<b>Restorations, permanent</b> – placing, condensing, carving, or removal (except for RDAEFs licensed on or after 1/1/2010)	BPC 1750.1 and 1908 16CCR 1090 RDAEFs: 1753.5 and 1753.6
<b>Surgery</b> – or cutting on hard and soft tissue including, but not limited to, the removal of teeth and the cutting and suturing of soft tissue	BPC 1750.1 and 1908 16CCR 1090

**Table Of Permitted Duties – Dental Assisting**

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Anesthesia, general</b> – 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. <b>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</b> while conscious sedation or general anesthesia is being administered. Also see <b>Sedation</b> .	BPC 1750.5	N	N	N	N	D
<b>Archwires</b> – place ligature ties and archwires	BPC 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	D	N
<b>Archwires</b> – remove ligature ties and archwires	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Bases</b> – place bases, liners, and bonding agents	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Bite registrations</b> – take facebow transfers and bite registrations	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Bleaching agents</b> – apply and activate bleaching agents using a nonlaser light-curing device	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Bonding</b> – chemically prepare teeth for bonding for restorative procedures	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Bonding agents</b> – place bases, liners, and bonding agents	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Bonding and orthodontic brackets</b> – prepare teeth for bonding and select, preposition, and cure after their position has been approved by the supervising licensed dentist	BPC 1750.3	N	N	N	D	N
<b>Caries detection devices and materials, automated</b> – use to gather information for diagnosis by the dentist	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Cement, excess</b> – remove from tooth surfaces with a hand instrument	BPC 1752.4 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Cement, excess</b> – remove from supragingival surfaces of teeth undergoing orthodontic treatment with an ultrasonic scaler (RDAs and RDAEFs must have completed a board-approved registered dental assistant educational program or course in these duties.) OAs may perform this function also with a hand instrument under direct supervision.	BPC 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	D	N
Computer-aided design (CAD), milled restorations – obtain intraoral images for	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Cord retraction</b> of gingiva for impression procedures	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Crowns, temporary</b> – fabricate, adjust, cement, and remove indirect provisional restorations, including stainless steel crowns when used as a provisional restoration	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Dentures</b> – adjust extra-orally	BPC 1752.4	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Dressings, periodontal - place</b>	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Dressings, post-extraction</b> – place after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Dressings, periodontal and post extraction – remove</b> periodontal dressings and remove post extraction dressings after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist.	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1752.5 1752.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Drug identification and draw</b> - limited to identification of appropriate medications, ampule and vial preparation, and withdrawing drugs of correct amount as verified by the supervising licensed dentist	BPC 1750.5	N	N	N	N	D
<b>Drugs, medications, and fluids</b> – Only after the initial dose of a drug or medication has been administered by the supervising licensed dentist, add drugs, medication, or 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.	BPC 1750.5	N	N	N	N	D
<b>Endodontic filling point – fit trial</b>	BPC 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Endodontic master points and accessory points – size and fit;</b> (Licensed on or after 1/1/2010 or completed additional course and examination after 1/1/2010)	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Endodontic master points and accessory points – cement.</b> (Licensed on or after 1/1/2010 or completed additional course and examination after 1/1/2010) The Dental Board has clarified that cementation shall be done in preparation for lateral condensation, which must be performed by the dentist.	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Endodontic post and core castings</b> – formulate indirect patterns for	BPC 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Endodontically treated canals</b> – dry using absorbent paper points	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Evaluation of the patient’s oral health</b> – conduct preliminary evaluation, including, but not limited to, charting, intraoral and extra-oral evaluation of soft tissue, classifying occlusion, and myofunctional evaluation. Exclude periodontal probing. (Licensed on or after 1/1/10 or completed additional course and examination after 1/1/10.)	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Extra-oral duties or procedures</b> specified by the supervising licensed dentist provided that these duties or procedures meet the definition of a basic supportive procedure specified in Section 1750	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6 1777	G	G	G	G	G
<b>Facebow transfers</b> – take facebow transfers and bite registrations	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Fluoride, topical</b> – apply (Assistants may operate under general direction when operating in a school-based setting or government run public health program, see section 1750.1(c))	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6 1777	D	D D C	D D C	D	D
<b>Impressions, removable prosthesis</b> – take final for tooth-borne, removable prosthesis (Licensed on or after 1/1/2010 or completed additional course and examination after 1/1/2010.)	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Impressions, permanent indirect restorations</b> – take final for permanent indirect restorations	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Impressions, nonprosthodontic appliances</b> – take intraoral impressions for all nonprosthodontic appliances	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Interim Therapeutic Restoration (ITR)</b> – place an ITR after the diagnosis and direction of a dentist in a telehealth connected dental team. Specifications for required education, supervision and conditions are found in the BPC section specified.	BPC 1753.55	N	N	Y	N	N

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Intraoral retraction and suctioning</b>	1750.1	G	C	C	C	C
<b>Intravenous line - remove</b>	1750.5	N	N	N	N	D
<b>Ligature ties – place</b> ligature ties and archwires	BPC 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	D	N
<b>Ligature ties – remove</b> ligature ties and archwires	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Light-curing device</b> – cure restorative or orthodontic materials in operative site with light curing device	BPC1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Liners</b> – place bases, liners, and bonding agents	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Matrices</b> – place, wedge, and remove matrices for restorative procedures.	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Monitoring</b> – place patient monitoring sensors	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Mouth-mirror inspection</b> of the oral cavity, to include charting of obvious lesions, existing restorations, and missing teeth. This duty is not the same as evaluation of patient’s oral health or oral health assessment.	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Nitrous oxide</b> – assist in the administration of nitrous oxide when used for analgesia or sedation. A dental assistant shall not start the administration of the gases and shall not adjust the flow of the gases unless instructed to do so by the supervising licensed dentist who shall be present at the patient’s chairside during the implementation of these instructions. This paragraph shall not be construed to prevent any person from taking appropriate action in the event of a medical emergency.	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Oral health assessments</b> – perform oral health assessments in school-based, community health project settings under the direction of a dentist, registered dental hygienist, or registered dental hygienist in alternative practice. This duty is not the same as evaluation of patient’s oral health or mouth mirror inspection. (RDAEF licensed on or after 1/1/2010 or completed additional course and examination after 1/1/2010.)	BPC 1753.5 1753.6 1911	N	N	C	N	N
<b>Orthodontic appliances</b> – examine	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Orthodontic appliances, removable</b> – after adjustment by the dentist, examine and seat appliances and deliver care instructions to the patient	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Orthodontic bands</b> – remove	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	D	N
<b>Orthodontic bands</b> – size, fit, and cement	BPC 1750.3	N	N	N	D	N
<b>Orthodontic brackets</b> – prepare teeth for bonding and select, preposition, and cure after their position has been approved by the supervising licensed dentist	BPC 1750.3	N	N	N	D	N
<b>Orthodontic brackets and attachments</b> – remove only orthodontic brackets and attachments with removal of the bonding material by the supervising licensed dentist	BPC 1750.3	N	N	N	D	N

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Orthodontic measurements</b> - perform measurements for the purposes of orthodontic treatment	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Orthodontic separators</b> – place and remove	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Photography</b> - perform intraoral and extraoral photography	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	G	G	G	G	G
<b>Polish coronal surfaces of the teeth</b> (RDAs licensed prior to 1/1/2010 must complete a board-certified course in coronal polishing)	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6 1777	N	D D C	D D C	N	N
<b>Pulp vitality</b> – test and record findings	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Radiography equipment</b> – operate dental radiography equipment for the purpose of oral radiography if the dental assistant has complied with the requirements of Section 1656.	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.55 1753.6	G	G	G	G	G
<b>Restorations, direct</b> – place, contour, finish, and adjust (Licensed on or after 1/1/2010 or completed additional course and examination after 1/1/2010)	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Restorations, direct provisional</b> – place, adjust and finish	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N



Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Restorations, existing amalgam</b> – polish and contour (Licensed on or after 1/1/2010 or completed additional course and examination after 1/1/2010)	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Restorations, indirect provisional</b> – fabricate, adjust, cement, and remove; includes stainless steel crowns when used as a provisional restoration	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	N	N
<b>Restorations, permanent indirect</b> - adjust and cement (Licensed on or after 1/1/2010 or completed additional course and examination after 1/1/2010.)	BPC 1753.5 1753.6	N	N	D	N	N
<b>Rubber dams or other isolation devices</b> – place and remove	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Sealants, pit and fissure</b> – application of (RDA licensed prior to 1/1/2010 must complete an approved course prior to performing function. RDA licensed on or after 1/1/2010 must have completed the approved curriculum, or a separate approved course by the end of his or her first re-licensure period that requires CE completion.)	BPC 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6 1777	N	D D C	D D C	N	N
<b>Sedation</b> – monitor patients undergoing sedation, limited to reading and transmitting information from the monitor display <b>during the intraoperative phase of surgery</b> for electrocardiogram waveform, carbon dioxide and end tidal carbon dioxide concentrations, respiratory cycle data, continuous noninvasive blood pressure data, or pulse arterial oxygen saturation measurements, for the purpose of <b>interpretation and evaluation by a supervising licensed dentist who shall be at the patient’s chairside during this procedure.</b>	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Sedation, conscious</b> – 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. <b>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</b> while conscious sedation or general anesthesia is being administered. Also see <b>Anesthesia, general</b>	BPC 1750.5	N	N	N	N	D

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	D A	R D A	R D A E F	O A	D S A
<b>Sutures</b> - remove after inspection of the site by the dentist.	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Topical agents</b> - apply nonaerosol and noncaustic agents	BPC 1750.1 1750.5 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	D	D D	D D	D	D
<b>Ultrasonic scaler</b> – use of to remove excess cement from <b>supragingival surfaces of teeth undergoing orthodontic treatment</b> (RDAs and RDAEFs must have completed a board-approved registered dental assistant educational program or course in these duties.)	BPC 1750.3 1752.4 1753.5 1753.6	N	D D	D D	D	N

## Table of Permitted Duties – Dental Hygiene

“05” means that a Registered Dental Hygienist or Registered Dental Hygienist in Extended Functions may perform the registered dental assisting duty under the same level of supervision if initial license was issued on or before December 31, 2005 or, if initial license was on or after January 1, 2006, the hygienist has completed the required education, or training, examination, and has obtained a license as a Registered Dental Assistant.

“WS” means the Registered Dental Hygienist may perform this function **without supervision of a dentist**. “Without supervision” differs from “general supervision” in that the dentist has not examined the patient prior to the provision of the service.

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	R D H	R D H E F	R D H A P
<b>Anesthesia, local</b> – administer (after completing a Dental Hygiene Committee of California-approved course)	BPC 1909 1921	D	D	D
<b>Archwires</b> – place and remove ligature ties and archwires (see <b>Ligature ties</b> )	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Bases</b> – place bases, liners, and bonding agents	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Bite registrations</b> – take facebow transfers and bite registrations	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Bleaching agents</b> – apply and activate bleaching agents using a nonlaser light-curing device	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	G
<b>Bonding</b> – chemically prepare teeth for bonding <i>RDHEF – prepare enamel by etching for bonding; apply etchant for bonding restorative materials</i>	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Bonding</b> – prepare enamel by etching for bonding; apply etchant for bonding restorative materials	16CCR 1089	N	D	N
<b>Bonding agents</b> – place bases, liners, and bonding agents	BPC 1907	05	05	05
<b>Caries detection devices and materials, automated</b> – use of automated caries detection devices to gather information for diagnosis by the dentist	BPC 1914 1921	G	G	G
<b>Cement, excess on surfaces of teeth</b> – remove with a hand instrument	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Cement, excess</b> – remove from surfaces of teeth undergoing orthodontic treatment, with an ultrasonic scaler.	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Computer-aided design (CAD), milled restorations</b> – obtain intraoral images for computer-aided design, milled restorations	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Cord retraction</b> of gingiva for impression procedures	16CCR 1089	N	D	N
<b>Crowns, temporary</b> – fabricate, adjust, cement, and remove indirect provisional restorations, including stainless steel crowns when used as a provisional restoration	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	R D H	R D H E F	R D H A P
<b>Curettage, soft tissue</b> (must FIRST complete a DHCC-approved course)	BPC 1909 1921	D	D	D
<b>Dentures</b> – adjust extra-orally	BPC 1907	05	05	05
<b>Dressings, periodontal</b> – place	BPC 1914	G	G	WS
<b>Dressings, post-extraction</b> – place after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist	BPC 1907	05	05	05
<b>Dressings, periodontal and post extraction</b> – remove periodontal dressings and remove post extraction dressings after inspection of the surgical site by the supervising licensed dentist.	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Endodontic filling point</b> – fit trial	16CCR 1089	N	D	N
<b>Endodontic post and core castings</b> – formulate indirect patterns for	16CCR 1089	N	D	N
<b>Endodontically treated canals</b> – dry using absorbent paper points	BPC 1907	05	05	05
<b>Exam, preliminary</b> – including but not limited to periodontal charting, intra and extra-oral examination of soft tissue, classifying occlusion, myofunctional evaluation	16CCR 1088	G	G	WS
<b>Extra-oral duties or procedures</b> specified by the supervising licensed dentist provided that these duties or procedures meet the definition of a basic supportive procedure specified in Section 1750	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	WS
<b>Facebow transfers</b> – take facebow transfers and bite registrations	BPC 1907	05	05	05
<b>Fluoride – apply</b>	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	WS
<b>Fluoride, public health program</b> – apply in a public health program created by federal, state, or local law or administered by a federal, state, county, or local governmental entity	BPC 1911 1921	WS	WS	WS
<b>Hygiene preventive services</b> in a public health program created by federal, state, or local law or administered by a federal, state, county, or local governmental entity	BPC 1911 1921	WS	WS	WS
<b>Impressions, cast restorations</b> – take final impressions for cast restorations	16CCR 1089	N	D	N
<b>Impressions, bleaching trays</b> – take for bleaching trays and placement of in-office, tooth whitening devices	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	G
<b>Impressions, nonprosthodontic appliances</b> – take intraoral impressions for all nonprosthodontic appliances	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Impressions, space maintainers, orthodontic appliances and guards</b> – take intraoral	16CCR 1089	N	D	N

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	R D H	R D H E F	R D H A P
<b>Interim Therapeutic Restoration (ITR)</b> – place an ITR after the diagnosis and direction of a dentist in a telehealth connected dental team. Specifications for required education, supervision and conditions are found in the BPC section specified.	BPC 1910.5 1926.05	G	G	G
<b>Irrigate subgingivally</b> with an antimicrobial and/or antibiotic liquid solutions	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	WS
<b>Ligature ties</b> – place and remove ligature ties and archwires (see <b>Archwires</b> )	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Light-curing device</b> – use nonlaser device to activate bleaching agent	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	G
<b>Light-curing device</b> - cure restorative or orthodontic materials in operative site with	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Liners</b> – place bases, liners, and bonding agents	BPC 19071921	05	05	05
<b>Matrices</b> – place, wedge, and remove matrices for restorative procedures.	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Monitoring</b> – place patient monitoring sensors	BPC 1907 1921	D	D	D
<b>Mouth-mirror inspection</b> of the oral cavity, to include charting of obvious lesions, existing restorations, and missing teeth.	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	WS
<b>Nitrous oxide and oxygen</b> – administration, whether alone or in combination with each other (must FIRST complete a DHCC-approved course)	BPC 1909 1921	D	D	D
<b>Oral exfoliative cytology</b>	16CCR 1088	G	G	WS
<b>Oral health screenings</b>	BPC 1911 1921	WS	WS	WS
<b>Orthodontic appliances</b> - examine	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Orthodontic appliances, removable</b> – after adjustment by the dentist, examine and seat appliances and deliver care instructions to the patient	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Orthodontic bands</b> – remove	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Orthodontic measurements</b> – perform measurements for the purposes of orthodontic treatment	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Orthodontic separators</b> – place and remove	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Photography</b> – perform intraoral and extraoral photography	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	WS

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	R D H	R D H E F	R D H A P
<b>Polish coronal surfaces of the teeth</b>	BPC 1910	G	G	WS
<b>Preventive and therapeutic interventions</b> – includes oral prophylaxis, scaling, and root planing	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	WS
<b>Pulp vitality</b> – test and record findings	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Radiography equipment</b> – operate dental radiography equipment for the purpose of oral radiography	BPC 1914 1921 1910.5 1926.05	G	G	WS
<b>Restorations</b> – polish and contour	16CCR 1088	G	G	WS
<b>Restorations, direct provisional</b> - place, adjust and finish	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Restorations, indirect provisional</b> – fabricate, adjust, cement, and remove; includes stainless steel crowns when used as a provisional restoration	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Root planing</b>	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	WS
<b>Rubber dams or other isolation devices</b> – place and remove	BPC 1907 1921	05	05	05
<b>Scaling and root planing</b> – and other preventive and therapeutic interventions, including oral prophylaxis	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	WS
<b>Sealants, pit and fissure</b> – application of	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	WS
<b>Sealants, pit and fissure, public health program</b> – apply pit and fissure sealants in a public health program created by federal, state, or local law or administered by a federal, state, county, or local governmental entity	BPC 1911 1921	WS	WS	WS
<b>Sedation</b> – monitor patients undergoing sedation, limited to reading and transmitting information from the monitor display during the intraoperative phase of surgery for electrocardiogram waveform, carbon dioxide and end tidal carbon dioxide concentrations, respiratory cycle data, continuous noninvasive blood pressure data, or pulse arterial oxygen saturation measurements, for the purpose of interpretation and evaluation by a supervising licensed dentist who shall be at the patient’s chairside during this procedure.	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Soft tissue curettage</b> – (after completing a DHCC-approved course)	BPC 1909 1921	D	D	D

Duty	Section of Applicable Law	R D H	R D H E F	R D H A P
<b>Sutures</b> – remove after inspection of the site by the dentist.	BPC 1907 1921	G	G	G
<b>Topical agents</b> - apply nonaerosol and noncaustic agents	BPC 1914	G	G	WS
<b>Topical, therapeutic, and subgingival agents</b> – apply for the control of caries and periodontal disease	BPC 1910 1921	G	G	WS

## Scope of Practice for Registered Dental Hygienists, Registered Dental Hygienists in Extended Functions, and Registered Dental Hygienists in Alternative Practice

### Business & Professions Code

**Section 1907.** The following functions may be performed by a registered dental hygienist, in addition to those authorized pursuant to Sections 1908 to 1914, inclusive:

- (a) All functions that may be performed by a registered dental assistant.
- (b) All persons holding a license as a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions as of December 31, 2005, are authorized to perform the duties of a registered dental assistant specified in this chapter. All persons issued a license as a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions on or after January 1, 2006, shall qualify for and receive a registered dental assistant license prior to performance of the duties of a registered dental assistant specified in this chapter.

### Section 1908.

- (a) The practice of dental hygiene includes dental hygiene assessment and development, planning, and implementation of a dental hygiene care plan. It also includes oral health education, counseling, and health screenings.
- (b) The practice of dental hygiene does not include any of the following procedures:
  - (1) Diagnosis and comprehensive treatment planning.
  - (2) Placing, condensing, carving, or removal of permanent restorations.
  - (3) Surgery or cutting on hard and soft tissue including, but not limited to, the removal of teeth and the cutting and suturing of soft tissue.
  - (4) Prescribing medication.
  - (5) Administering local or general anesthesia or oral or parenteral conscious sedation, except for the administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, whether administered alone or in combination with each other, or local anesthesia pursuant to Section 1909.

**Section 1909.** A registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following procedures under direct supervision of a licensed dentist, after submitting to the committee evidence of satisfactory completion of a course of instruction, approved by the committee, in the procedures:

- (a) Soft-tissue curettage.
- (b) Administration of local anesthesia.
- (c) Administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen, whether administered alone or in combination with each other.

**Section 1909.5.** Courses of instruction for direct supervision duties added to the scope of practice of dental hygiene on or after July 1, 2009, shall be submitted by the committee for approval by the dental board.



**Section 1910.** A registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following procedures under general supervision:

- (a) Preventive and therapeutic interventions, including oral prophylaxis, scaling, and root planing.
- (b) Application of topical, therapeutic, and subgingival agents used for the control of caries and periodontal disease.
- (c) The taking of impressions for bleaching trays and application and activation of agents with nonlaser, light-curing devices.
- (d) The taking of impressions for bleaching trays and placements of in-office, tooth-whitening devices.

**Section 1910.5.**

(a) In addition to the duties specified in Section 1910, a registered dental hygienist is authorized to perform the following additional duties, as specified:

(1) Determine which radiographs to perform on a patient who has not received an initial examination by the supervising dentist for the specific purpose of the dentist making a diagnosis and treatment plan for the patient. In these circumstances, the dental hygienist shall follow protocols established by the supervising dentist. This paragraph only applies in the following settings:

(A) In a dental office setting.

(B) In a public health setting, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.

(2) Place protective restorations, which for this purpose are identified as interim therapeutic restorations, and defined as a direct provisional restoration placed to stabilize the tooth until a licensed dentist diagnoses the need for further definitive treatment.

An interim therapeutic restoration consists of the removal of soft material from the tooth using only hand instrumentation, without the use of rotary instrumentation, and subsequent placement of an adhesive restorative material. Local anesthesia shall not be necessary for interim therapeutic restoration placement. Interim therapeutic restorations shall be placed only in accordance with both of the following:

(A) In either of the following settings:

(i) In a dental office setting.

(ii) In a public health setting, using telehealth, as defined by Section 2290.5, for the purpose of communication with the supervising dentist, including, but not limited to, schools, head start and preschool programs, and community clinics.

(B) After the diagnosis, treatment plan, and instruction to perform the procedure provided by a dentist.

- (b) The functions described in subdivision (a) may be performed by a registered dental hygienist only after completion of a program that includes training in performing those functions, or after providing evidence, satisfactory to the committee, of having completed a committee-approved course in those functions.
- (c) No later than January 1, 2018, the committee shall adopt regulations to establish requirements for courses of instruction for the procedures authorized to be performed by a registered dental hygienist and registered dental hygienist in alternative practice pursuant to Sections 1910.5 and 1926.05, using the competency-based training protocols established by the Health Workforce Pilot Project (HWPP) No. 172 through the Office of Health Planning and Development. The committee shall use the curriculum submitted by the board pursuant to Section 1753.55 to adopt regulatory language for approval of courses of instruction for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration. Any subsequent amendments to the regulations for the Interim Therapeutic Restoration curriculum that are promulgated by the committee shall be agreed upon by the board and the committee.
- (d) This section shall become operative on January 1, 2018.

**Section 1911.**

- (a) A registered dental hygienist may provide, without supervision, educational services, oral health training programs, and oral health screenings.
- (b) A registered dental hygienist shall refer any screened patients with possible oral abnormalities to a dentist for a comprehensive examination, diagnosis, and treatment plan.
- (c) In any public health program created by federal, state, or local law or administered by a federal, state, county, or local governmental entity, a registered dental hygienist may provide, without supervision, dental hygiene preventive services in addition to oral screenings, including, but not limited to, the application of fluorides and pit and fissure sealants. A registered dental hygienist employed as described in this subdivision may submit, or allow to be submitted, any insurance or third-party claims for patient services performed as authorized in this article.

**Section 1912.** Any procedure performed or service provided by a registered dental hygienist that does not specifically require direct supervision shall require general supervision, so long as it does not give rise to a situation in the dentist's office requiring immediate services for alleviation of severe pain, or immediate diagnosis and treatment of unforeseeable dental conditions that, if not immediately diagnosed and treated, would lead to serious disability or death.

**Section 1913.** Unless otherwise specified in this chapter, a registered dental hygienist may perform any procedure or provide any service within the scope of his or her practice in any setting, so long as the procedure is performed or the service is provided under the appropriate level of supervision required by this article.

**Section 1914.** A registered dental hygienist may use any material or device approved for use in the performance of a service or procedure within his or her scope of practice under the appropriate level of supervision, if he or she has the appropriate education and training required to use the material or device.

**Section 1915.** No person other than a registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative functions, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions or a licensed dentist may engage in the practice of dental hygiene or perform dental hygiene procedures on patients, including, but not limited to, supragingival and subgingival scaling, dental hygiene assessment, and treatment planning, except for the following persons:

- (a) A student enrolled in a dental or a dental hygiene school who is performing procedures as part of the regular curriculum of that program under the supervision of the faculty of that program.
- (b) A dental assistant acting in accordance with the rules of the dental board in performing the following procedures:
  - (1) Applying nonaerosol and noncaustic topical agents.
  - (2) Applying topical fluoride.
  - (3) Taking impressions for bleaching trays.
- (c) A registered dental assistant acting in accordance with the rules of the dental board in performing the following procedures:
  - (1) Polishing the coronal surfaces of teeth.
  - (2) Applying bleaching agents.
  - (3) Activating bleaching agents with a nonlaser light-curing device.
  - (4) Applying pit and fissure sealant.
- (d) A registered dental assistant in extended functions acting in accordance with the rules of the dental board in applying pit and fissure sealants.
- (e) A registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions licensed in another jurisdiction, performing a clinical demonstration for educational purposes.

**Section 1920.**

- (a) A person who holds a current and active license as a registered dental hygienist in extended functions or a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice on July 1, 2009, shall automatically be issued a license as a registered dental hygienist, unless the person holds a current and active registered dental hygienist license.
- (b) A registered dental hygienist license issued pursuant to this section shall expire on the same date as the person's registered dental hygienist, registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, or registered dental hygienist in extended functions license, and shall be subject to the same renewal and other requirements imposed by law or regulation on a license.

**Section 1921.** In addition to any other duties or functions authorized by law, a registered dental hygienist in extended functions or a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may perform any of the duties or functions authorized to be performed by a registered dental hygienist.

**Section 1925.** A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may practice, pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 1907, subdivision (a) of Section 1908, and subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 1910, as an employee of a dentist or of another registered dental hygienist in alternative practice, as an independent contractor, as a sole proprietor of an alternative dental hygiene practice, as an employee of a primary care clinic or specialty clinic that is licensed pursuant to Section 1204 of the Health and Safety Code, as an employee of a primary care clinic exempt from licensure pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code, as an employee of a clinic owned or operated by a public hospital or health system, or as an employee of a clinic owned and operated by a hospital that maintains the primary contract with a county government to fill the county's role under Section 17000 of the Welfare and Institutions Code.

**Section 1926.** A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may perform the duties authorized pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 1907, subdivision (a) of Section 1908, and subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 1910 in the following settings:

- (a) Residences of the homebound.
- (b) Schools.
- (c) Residential facilities and other institutions.
- (d) Dental health professional shortage areas, as certified by the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development in accordance with existing office guidelines.

**Section 1926.05.**

(a) In addition to the duties specified in Section 1926, a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice is authorized to perform the duties pursuant to Section 1910.5, in the following settings:

- (1) Residences of the homebound.
- (2) Schools.
- (3) Residential facilities and other institutions.

(b) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice is authorized to perform the duties pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (a) of Section 1910.5 in the settings specified in this section under the general supervision of a dentist.

**Section 1927.** A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice shall not do any of the following:

- (a) Infer, purport, advertise, or imply that he or she is in any way able to provide dental services or make any type of dental health diagnosis beyond evaluating a patient's dental hygiene status, providing a dental hygiene treatment plan, and providing the associated dental hygiene services.
- (b) Hire a registered dental hygienist to provide direct patient services other than a registered dental hygienist in alternative practice.

**Section 1928.** A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may submit or allow to be submitted any insurance or third-party claims for patient services performed as authorized pursuant to this article.

**Section 1929.**

- (a) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may hire other registered dental hygienists in alternative practice to assist in his or her practice.
- (b) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may hire and supervise dental assistants performing intraoral retraction and suctioning.

**Section 1931.**

- (a) (1) A dental hygienist in alternative practice may provide services to a patient without obtaining written verification that the patient has been examined by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state.  
(2) If the dental hygienist in alternative practice provides services to a patient 18 months or more after the first date that he or she provides services to a patient, he or she shall obtain written verification that the patient has been examined by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state. The verification shall include a prescription for dental hygiene services as described in subdivision (b). Failure to comply with this paragraph or subdivision (b) shall be considered unprofessional conduct.
- (b) A registered dental hygienist in alternative practice may provide dental hygiene services for a patient who presents to the registered dental hygienist in alternative practice a written prescription for dental hygiene services issued by a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state. The prescription shall be valid for a time period based on the dentist's or physician and surgeon's professional judgment, but not to exceed two years from the date it was issued.
- (c) The committee shall seek to obtain an injunction against any registered dental hygienist in alternative practice who provides services pursuant to this section, if the committee has reasonable cause to believe that the services are being provided to a patient who has not received a prescription for those services from a dentist or physician and surgeon licensed to practice in this state.

## **Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations**

Note: The provisions of Business & Professions Code Sections 1907 and 1909 supercede the struck out sections of the regulations, although the text remains part of the regulation.

**Section 1088. RDH Duties and Settings.**

- (a) Unless specifically so provided by regulation, the prohibition contained in Section 1085(a), subsections (1) through (8) of these regulations shall apply to duties performed by a registered dental hygienist.
- ~~(b) A registered dental hygienist may perform all duties assigned to dental assistants and registered dental assistants, under the supervision of a licensed dentist as specified in these regulations.~~
- (c) Under general supervision, a registered dental hygienist may perform the following duties in addition to those provided by Section 1760(b) of the Code:
  - (1) Root planing;
  - (2) Polish and contour restorations;
  - (3) Oral exfoliative cytology;
  - (4) Apply pit and fissure sealants;
  - (5) Preliminary examination, including but not limited to:
    - (A) Periodontal charting;
    - (B) Intra and extra-oral examination of soft tissue;
    - (C) Charting of lesions, existing restorations and missing teeth;

- (D) Classifying occlusion;
- (E) Myofunctional evaluation;

- (6) Irrigate sub-gingivally with an antimicrobial and/or antibiotic liquid solution(s).
- ~~(7) The following direct supervision duties of dental assistants and registered dental assistants:~~

~~(A) Dental Assistant:~~

- ~~(1) Taking impressions for diagnostic and opposing models;~~
- ~~(2) Applying non-aerosol and non-caustic topical agents;~~
- ~~(3) Removing post-extraction and periodontal dressings;~~
- ~~(4) Removing sutures;~~
- ~~(5) Taking intra-oral measurements for orthodontic procedures;~~
- ~~(6) Checking for loose bands;~~
- ~~(7) Removing ligature ties;~~
- ~~(8) Applying topical fluoride;~~
- ~~(9) Placing elastic separators.~~

~~(B) Registered Dental Assistant-~~

- ~~(1) Test pulp vitality;~~
- ~~(2) Removing excess cement from supragingival surfaces of teeth;~~
- ~~(3) Sizing stainless steel crowns, temporary crowns and bands;~~
- ~~(4) Temporary cementation and removal of temporary crowns and removal of orthodontic bands.~~
- ~~(5) Placing post-extraction and periodontal dressings.~~

- ~~(d) A registered dental hygienist may perform the procedures set forth below under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist when done so pursuant to the order, control and full professional responsibility of the supervising dentist. Such procedures shall be checked and approved by the supervising dentist prior to dismissal of the patient from the office of said dentist.~~

- ~~1. (1) Placement of Antimicrobial or Antibiotic Medicaments which do not later have to be removed.~~
- ~~2. (2) All duties so assigned to a dental assistant or a registered dental assistant, unless otherwise indicated;~~
- ~~3. (3) Periodontal soft tissue curettage (Evidence of satisfactory completion of a board-approved course of instruction in this function must be submitted to the board prior to any performance thereof);~~
- ~~4. (4) Administration of local anesthetic agents, infiltration and conductive, limited to the oral cavity (Evidence of satisfactory completion of a board-approved course of instruction in this function must be submitted to the board prior to any performance thereof);~~
- ~~5. (5) Administration of nitrous oxide and oxygen when used as an analgesic, utilizing fail-safe type machines containing no other general anesthetic agents. (Evidence of satisfactory completion of a board-approved course of instruction in this function must be submitted to the board prior to any performance thereof.)~~

**Section 1089. RDHEF Duties and Settings.**

- (a) Unless specifically provided by regulation, the prohibitions contained in Section 1085(a) (1) through (8) shall apply to RDHEFs.
- (b) An RDHEF may perform all duties assigned to dental assistants, registered dental assistants and registered dental hygienists.
- (c) An RDHEF may perform the procedures set forth below under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist when done so pursuant to the order, control and full professional responsibility of the supervising dentist. Such procedures shall be checked and approved by the supervising dentist prior to dismissal of the patient from the office of said dentist.
  - (1) Cord retraction of gingivae for impression procedures;
  - (2) Take impressions for cast restorations;
  - (3) Take impressions for space maintainers, orthodontic appliances and guards;
  - (4) Prepare enamel by etching for bonding;
  - (5) Formulate indirect patterns for endodontic post and core castings;
  - (6) Fit trial endodontic filling points;
  - (7) Apply etchant for bonding restorative materials.
- (d) Settings. Registered dental hygienists in extended functions may undertake the duties authorized by this section in a treatment facility under the jurisdiction and control of the supervising licensed dentist, or an equivalent facility approved by the Board.

**Section 1090. RDHAP Duties and Settings.**

- (a) Unless specifically so provided by regulation, an RDHAP may not perform the following functions or any activity which represents the practice of dentistry or requires knowledge, skill and training of a licensed dentist:
  - (1) Diagnosing and treatment planning;
  - (2) Surgical or cutting procedures on hard or soft tissue;
  - (3) Fitting and adjusting of correctional and prosthodontic appliances;
  - (4) Prescribing medication;
  - (5) Placing, condensing, carving or removal of permanent restorations, including final cementation procedures;
  - (6) Irrigating and medicating canals, try-in cones, reaming, filing or filling of root canals;
  - (7) Taking of impressions for prosthodontic appliances, bridges, or any other devices which may be worn in the mouth;
  - (8) Administering local or general anesthesia, oral or parental conscious sedation.
- (b) Under the supervision of a licensed dentist, an RDHAP may perform the duties assigned to registered dental hygienists by Section 1088, under the same levels of supervision and in the same settings as specified in that section, in addition to those duties permitted by Section 1768(b)(3).
- (c) Independently and without the supervision of a licensed dentist, an RDHAP may, upon the prescription of a dentist or a physician and surgeon licensed in California, perform the duties assigned to a registered dental hygienist by Section 1088(c).
  - (1) All prescriptions shall contain the following information:
    - (A) The pre-printed name, address, license number, and signature of the prescribing dentist or physician and surgeon.
    - (B) The name, address and phone number of the patient.
    - (C) The date the services are prescribed and the expiration date of the prescription. The prescription shall be for dental hygiene services and, if necessary, include special instructions for the care of that patient.

**Section 1090.1. RDHAP Documentation of Dentist Relationship.**

Prior to the establishment of an independent practice, an RDHAP shall provide to the board documentation of an existing relationship with at least one dentist for referral, consultation, and emergency services, on the form entitled: Documentation of RDHAP Relationship with Dentist, (rev. 5/99), which is hereby incorporated by reference. The dentist's license shall be current, active and not under discipline by the board. Any change shall be reported to the Board in writing, within 30 days following such change.