



COLLEGE OF DENTAL ASSISTANTS OF  
SASKATCHEWAN

# Scope of Practice for Registered Dental Assistants in Saskatchewan

Only individuals registered and currently licensed with the College of Dental Assistants of Saskatchewan (CDAS) can use the title “Dental Assistant,” “Registered Dental Assistant” or RDA designation, abbreviated or otherwise, to imply that they are a member of the College of Dental Assistants of Saskatchewan and eligible to practice dental assisting in Saskatchewan.

Competencies may only be performed by members who have completed formal education in dental assisting theory and practice at an approved program, registered with the CDAS, and hold a practice license.

All CDAS licensees must maintain a current competency list to ensure professional liability protection. Verification of additional training must be forwarded immediately to the CDAS. Dental assistants are advised to review their list for discrepancies. Your personal list of completed competencies can be found in your Member Center the CDAS website. (Licensee Login → enter login info → My Account → scroll down to Additional Information, select Uncategorized). Please contact the CDAS at [info@cdask.ca](mailto:info@cdask.ca) if you are needing further clarification on your list of competencies or if you notice any errors.



A dental assistant who holds a Full Practice license has at a minimum, the following core competencies as outlined by the NDAEB:

**ENTRY PRACTICES:**

(\*) Skills assessed by the NDAEB CPE

- Exposes Dental Radiographs, Process and Mount (\*)
- Provides Oral Hygiene Instruction
- Provides Dietary Counselling Relative to Oral Health
- Applies and Removes Dental Dam (\*)
- Performs Selective Rubber Cup Polishing (\*)
- Applies Anti-Cariogenic Agents (\*)
- Obtains preliminary Impressions (\*)
- Applies and Removes Matrices and Wedges (\*)
- Applies Treatment Liners (no pulpal involvement) (\*), Acid Etching and Cavity Bonding
- Applies Pit and Fissure Sealant (\*)
- Applies Desensitizing Agents
- Applies Topical Anaesthetic (\*)
- Performs Tooth Whitening Using Trays
- Performs Suture Removal



**ADVANCED PRACTICES:**

The following intraoral competencies may be included in the scope of practice for dental assistants provided that formal training has been completed and the competency is listed on the member's list of duties:

1. Orthodontic, Designation (see list of skills below)
2. Prosthodontic, Designation (see list of skills below)
3. Amalgam Insertion, Adjustment and Carving, Designation (see list of skills below)

**Although not on the competency list; the following procedures are considered part of the standard training:**

- Organizes armamentarium attends to patient comfort, maintains the patient record, provides the patient with treatment information and assists with all dentistry procedures
- Take & record vital signs, assist in medical emergencies
- Serve as an infection control officer; implementing infection control and prevention standards as well as preparing and sterilizing instruments and equipment
- Public health screening, assessing, and recording oral health status



## **ORTHODONTIC DESIGNATION**

### **Includes these competencies:**

1. Apply x-ray or ionizing radiation for the purpose of producing an orthodontic cephalometric image.
2. Insert removable orthodontic appliances
3. Insert and remove orthodontic separators
4. Select, fit and cement orthodontic bands and remove excess cement with hand instruments and a slow speed rotary handpiece
5. Place and bond orthodontic brackets and bondable attachments and remove excess bonding agent with hand instruments and a slow speed rotary handpiece.
6. Insert, ligate and remove orthodontic arch wires, which were formed by a dentist, using individual elastomeric ligatures, chain elastomeric ligatures; wire ligature ties (separate and continuous) and self-ligation mechanisms. Trim and/or bend distal ends of orthodontic arch wires.
7. Place and remove orthodontic accessories
8. Remove orthodontic bands with hand instruments and remove cement with hand instruments and a slow speed rotary handpiece
9. Remove orthodontic brackets and bondable attachments with hand instruments and remove bonding agent with hand instruments and slow speed rotary handpiece
10. Apply non-medicinal material to reduce irritating orthodontic components.



## PROSTHODONTIC DESIGNATION

### **Includes these competencies:**

1. Place intermediate restorative materials for temporary restoration of a tooth, and remove excess material from occlusion or contour with hand instruments and slow speed rotary handpiece
2. Select or fabricate and fit provisional acrylic crowns, inlays, onlays and bridges using self-curing or light curing materials or prefabricated or custom fabricated acrylic shells and remove excess material from occlusion or contour extra-orally with slow speed rotary handpiece
3. Cement provisional acrylic crowns, inlays, onlays and bridges using provisional cementation and remove excess temporary cement with hand instruments
4. Remove provisional acrylic crowns, inlays, onlays or bridges and cement with hand instruments
5. Prepare teeth for bonding or cementation of permanent crowns, inlays, onlays and bridges
6. Remove excess bonding agent or permanent cement with hand instruments
7. Place and remove gingival retraction cord with or without haemostatic agents (no epinephrine) in sulcus



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## **AMALGAM INSERTION, ADJUSTMENT AND CARVING**

### **Includes these competencies:**

1. Place amalgam restorations in a variety of tooth preparations
2. Carve and adjust amalgam to establish healthy occlusion

*Qualification in Amalgam Insertion and Carving does not qualify the dental assistant to place and/or finish composite restorations.*



**Full Practice:**

A dental assistant registered with the College of Dental Assistants of Saskatchewan who has a full practice permit license is permitted to perform at a minimum, the skills listed as Entry Practice skills. If a dental assistant has been awarded 'Advanced Practices' as per the CDAS, they are eligible to complete these skills as well.

A dental assistant with a full practice permit can carry out these skills without supervision provided they are practicing according to their formal training and licensure.

**Temporary Restricted Practice:**

Applicants are only eligible for the temporary restricted practice permit if they graduated from an accredited dental assisting program, are registered with the National Dental Assisting Examination Board, and awaiting results from the NDAEB. Dental assistants registered with the CDAS holding a temporary restricted practice license must work within a supervised environment. A temporary restricted practice permit is time limited.

**Temporary Restricted Practice Supervision**

Supervision can be provided by anyone licensed by an oral health regulatory body in Saskatchewan such as another Registered Dental Assistant (RDA), a Dental Therapist (SDT), a Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH) or a licensed dentist.

**Non-Practice:**

A person who is licensed at non-practicing status may not practice or hold themselves out as being entitled to practice chairside dental assisting.



**A person who has held a non-practice license for up to three (3) years must complete all of the following requirements necessary for a license status change to return to a full practice status and upload the documentation into their CDAS Member Center:**

- 36 Professional Development/Continuing Education credits
- 300 Practice Hours acquired in the previous 3-year period (a completed Practice Verification Form must be completed by your employer or provider of a volunteer opportunity with your 1 proof of hours and explanation of competencies completed)
- current Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) course certificate current
- CPR certificate
- current Professional Liability Insurance

**A person who has held a non-practice license for over three (3) years must complete all of the following requirements necessary for a license status change to return to a full practice status and upload the documentation into their CDAS Member Center:**

- 36 Professional Development/Continuing Education credits
- 300 Practice Hours acquired in the previous 3-year period (a completed Practice Verification Form must be completed by your employer or provider of a volunteer opportunity with your proof of hours and explanation of competencies completed)
- current Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) course certificate
- current CPR certificate
- current Professional Liability Insurance

**AS WELL AS**

- **Has successfully completed all minimum skills required via the NDAEB Clinical Practice Evaluation, and received a confirmation letter from the NDAEB**





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**Ethics:**

A dental assistant licensed in Saskatchewan is legally bound to practice in an ethical manner. A dental assistant must only perform competencies for which they have been formally trained or assessed, and are awarded by the licensing body. It is generally understood that dental assistants should not perform competencies for which they do not feel competent. If training was received some time ago and the task has not been practiced recently, the dental assistant may consider reviewing the competency with the support of a licensed and qualified co-worker or take a course through an approved training facility.

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