

# Dental Assisting Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Who certifies dental assistants? Why do I need to reach out to DANB with questions about obtaining my certificate when the OBD technically issues the certificate?**

**A:** DANB handles the certification process for the OBD because we are a small agency and do not have the staffing to handle issuing certificates. We partner closely with DANB and regularly have meetings to improve the certification process for Oregon dental assistants.

**Q: Do I need to post my certificate in the office?**

**A:** Yes, OAR 818-042-0020(4) requires all certificates are current and posted in a conspicuous place.

**Q: I can't find my certificate. How do I get a new copy?**

**A:** On [danb.org](http://danb.org) you can navigate to the form by clicking on "Exams" then "Forms and Policies" then clicking the link to "Request a Duplicate Certificate".

**Q: Do I need to renew my certifications?**

**A:** That depends. You do not need to renew any certificates obtained through the OBD. This includes: Radiologic Proficiency, EFDA, EFPDA, EFODA, Restorative Functions, Local Anesthesia, or Anesthesia Dental Certifications. Certifications obtained through DANB (such as: CDA, CDIPC) do need to be renewed annually. The DAANCE from AAOMS is valid for five years. Please visit [danb.org](http://danb.org) or [aaoms.org](http://aaoms.org) for more information.

**Q: How can I transfer my certifications from another state?**

**A:** You will need to reach out to the Oregon liaison Tony Garcia from DANB to inquire about transferring your certificates. Please call 1-800-367-3262 or email [tgarcia@danb.org](mailto:tgarcia@danb.org)

**Q: Can I have a working interview?**

**A:** Individuals who are waiting to get licensed or certified in Oregon cannot perform those duties that are required for licensure or certification without first becoming licensed or certified in Oregon. Under OAR 818-012-0010(4) it is Unacceptable Patient Care to permit any person to perform duties for which the person is not licensed or certified. Only persons holding an active license or certification can perform working interviews.

**Q: I just hired an assistant with an EFDA and Radiology certificate from another state. Can she perform those duties in Oregon since she is already certified in another state?**

**A:** The certifications will need to be properly transferred or obtained in Oregon before they can perform those duties. To inquire whether certificate(s) can be transferred, please reach out to Tony Garcia from DANB at 1-800-367-3262 or [tgarcia@danb.org](mailto:tgarcia@danb.org). Until those certificates are transferred or otherwise obtained through Oregon pathways – they can only do basic chairside assisting duties.

**Q: Do I need to hold an active Healthcare Provider BLS?**

**A:** Only if you are an anesthesia monitor in accordance with OAR 818-026-0040(7) Persons serving as anesthesia monitors in a dental office shall maintain current certification in BLS for Healthcare Providers Basic Life Support (BLS), or its equivalent, shall be trained and competent in monitoring patient vital signs, in the use of monitoring and emergency equipment appropriate for the level of sedation utilized. ("competent" means displaying special skill or knowledge derived from training and experience.) and/or if you hold an Anesthesia Dental Assistant Certificate in accordance with OAR 818-042-0116(2). National certifications provided by DANB (such as the CDA) may also require that you hold a Healthcare Providers BLS.

**Q: I bought a new digital impression scanning system. May I have my dental assistant take the final digital impressions for crowns, bridges, and dentures?**

**A:** Dental Assistants with the proper training may take final impressions using traditional, or digital, impression materials. It is the dentist's responsibility to review all impressions to ensure accurate and clinically acceptable impressions are captured.

**Q: Can I test for HbA1c?**

**A:** At its Board Meeting on December 14, 2018, the Board of Dentistry recognized that it is within the scope of practice for a licensee to perform in-office A1C diabetes screening test for at-risk patients. The Board noted that: a) such testing is not presumed to be the standard of care; and b) for A1C screenings beyond the normal range, licensees should refer patients to a physician for a formal evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment. This testing can be delegated to a dental assistant if the supervising Licensee has determined they are properly trained and completed under indirect supervision.

For information regarding HbA1c testing, the American Dental Association has published a guide point of care, diabetes testing and reporting.

**Q: Can an EFDA do a coronal polish on a patient when the supervising dentist is not in the office?**

**A:** Yes, in accordance with OAR 818-042-0070, an EFDA can polish the coronal surfaces of teeth with a brush or rubber cup as part of oral prophylaxis to remove stains providing the patient is checked by a dentist or dental hygienist after the procedure is performed, prior to discharge.

**Q: How do I become a Board approved instructor in Radiologic Proficiency, Sealants, Soft Relines, or Cord Packing?**

**A:** Applications for becoming an instructor in Radiologic Proficiency, Sealants, and Cord Packing are available on the 'Dental Assistants' tab on our website:

<https://www.oregon.gov/dentistry/Pages/dental-assistants.aspx>

Soft Relines does not have a formal application and you will need to submit the course to the Board for review and approval. This can be done by emailing the request and course materials to [information@obd.Oregon.gov](mailto:information@obd.Oregon.gov). Please note these need to be renewed every two years. Currently, we mail those notices to let us know by email if your address changes.

**Q: What am I not allowed to perform as a dental assistant?**

**A:** In accordance with OAR 818-042-0040 – Prohibited Acts –

No licensee may authorize any dental assistant to perform the following acts:

(1) Diagnose or plan treatment.

(2) Cut hard or soft tissue.

(3) Any Expanded Function duty (OAR 818-042-0070 and OAR 818-042-0090) or Expanded Orthodontic Function duty (OAR 818-042-0100) or Restorative Functions (OAR 818-042-0095 or Expanded Preventive Duty (OAR 818-042-0113 and OAR 818-042-0114) or Expanded Function Anesthesia (OAR 818-042-0115) without holding the appropriate certification.

(4) Correct or attempt to correct the malposition or malocclusion of teeth except as provided by OAR 818-042-0100.

(5) Adjust or attempt to adjust any orthodontic wire, fixed or removable appliance or other structure while it is in the patient's mouth.

(6) Administer any drug except as allowed under the indirect supervision of a Licensee, such as fluoride, topical anesthetic, desensitizing agents, topical tooth whitening agents, over the counter medications per package instructions or drugs administered pursuant to OAR 818-026-0050(5), OAR 818-026-0060(12), OAR 818-026-0065(12), OAR 818-026-0070(12) and as provided in OAR 818-042-0070, OAR 818-042-0090 and OAR 818-042-0115.

(7) Prescribe any drug.

- (8) Place periodontal packs.
- (9) Start nitrous oxide.
- (10) Remove stains or deposits except as provided in OAR 818-042-0070.
- (11) Use ultrasonic equipment intra-orally except as provided in OAR 818-042-0100.
- (12) Use a high-speed handpiece or any device that is operated by a high-speed handpiece intra-orally except as provided in OAR 818-042-0095, and only for the purpose of adjusting occlusion, contouring, and polishing restorations on the tooth or teeth that are being restored.
- (13) Use lasers, except laser-curing lights.
- (14) Use air abrasion or air polishing.
- (15) Remove teeth or parts of tooth structure.
- (16) Cement or bond any fixed prosthesis or orthodontic appliance including bands, brackets, retainers, tooth moving devices, or orthopedic appliances except as provided in OAR 818-042-0100.
- (17) Condense and carve permanent restorative material except as provided in OAR 818-042-0095.
- (18) Place any type of retraction material subgingivally except as provided in OAR 818-042-0090.
- (19) Apply denture relines except as provided in OAR 818-042-0090(2).
- (20) Expose radiographs without holding a current Certificate of Radiologic Proficiency issued by the Board (OAR 818-042-0050 and OAR 818-042-0060) except while taking a course of instruction approved by the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Public Health Division, Office of Environmental Public Health, Radiation Protection Services, or the Oregon Board of Dentistry.
- (21) Use the behavior management techniques known as Hand Over Mouth (HOM) or Hand Over Mouth Airway Restriction (HOMAR) on any patient.
- (22) Perform periodontal assessment.
- (23) Place or remove healing caps or healing abutments, except under indirect supervision.
- (24) Place implant impression copings, except under indirect supervision.
- (25) Any act in violation of Board statute or rules.