

Quick Tips for the Dental Office



Expanded Function Dental Assistants (EFDA) Supervision and Scope of Practice

Supervision in Dental Facilities

Expanded function dental assistants (EFDAs) must always practice under the direct supervision of a dentist. Direct supervision is defined as the dentist personally diagnosing the condition to be treated, personally authorizing the procedure and remaining on premises while the EFDA performs the procedure. Before dismissal of the patient, the dentist must personally evaluate the work performed by the EFDA.

Scope of Professional Practice

An EFDA *may perform* the following services under the direct supervision of a dentist:

- Placing a removing rubber dams
- Placing a removing matrices
- Placing and removing wedges
- Applying cavity liners and bases
- Placing and condensing amalgam restorations
- Carving and contouring amalgam restorations
- Placing and finishing composite resin restorations or sealant material, or both
- Performing coronal polishing*
- Performing fluoride treatments, including fluoride varnish
- Take impressions of teeth for study models, diagnostic casts or athletic appliances

***Note:** Coronal polishing is defined as a procedure limited to the supragingival removal of light plaque and extrinsic stain from the exposed natural and restored surfaces of the teeth using rotary instruments with a rubber cup or brush and a polishing agent; the term does not include calculus removal.

Prohibitions: An EFDA *may not perform* the following procedures:

- Complete or limited examination, diagnosis and treatment planning
- Surgical or cutting procedures of hard or soft tissue
- Prescribing drugs, medicaments or work authorizations
- Final inspection and approval of restorative and other treatment which affects occlusion and necessary occlusal adjustments
- Pulp capping, pulpotomy and other endodontic procedures
- Placement and intraoral adjustments of fixed and removable prosthetic appliances
- Administration of local anesthesia, parenteral or inhalational sedation, nitrous oxide analgesia or general anesthesia
- Take impressions other than for study models, diagnostic casts or athletic appliances

Radiology Requirements

In order to legally operate dental x-ray equipment and perform radiological procedures in Pennsylvania, EFDAs must pass the radiologic procedures exam adopted by the State Board of Dentistry. Once the exam has been passed, EFDAs may perform radiological procedures in the dental facility under the direct supervision of a dentist.

Evidence of having passed the required exam needs to be retained by both the EFDA and the dentist as evidence of the individual's authority to perform radiologic procedures.