

Chapter 01: Introduction to Dental Assisting
Robinson & Bird: Essentials of Dental Assisting, 6th Edition

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which is a member of the dental healthcare team?
 - a. The dental assistant
 - b. The dentist
 - c. The dental supply person
 - d. Both the dental assistant and the dentist

ANS: D

Both the dental assistant and dentist are members of the dental healthcare team. The dental supply person provides an important support service but is not a member of the dental healthcare team.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 4

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

2. The American Dental Association (ADA) recognizes how many dental specialties?
 - a. Five
 - b. Seven
 - c. Nine
 - d. Eleven

ANS: C

The ADA currently recognizes nine dental specialties, as opposed to five, seven, or eleven.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 5

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

3. Which dental team member is legally responsible for the care of the patient?
 - a. Dentist
 - b. Dental hygienist
 - c. Dental assistant
 - d. Dental laboratory technician

ANS: A

The dentist is licensed to assess the oral health needs of the patient and is legally responsible for the patient's care. A registered dental hygienist or assistant may only perform duties as delegated by the dentist under the state practice act. The dental laboratory technician does not work directly with patients and is not legally responsible for their care.

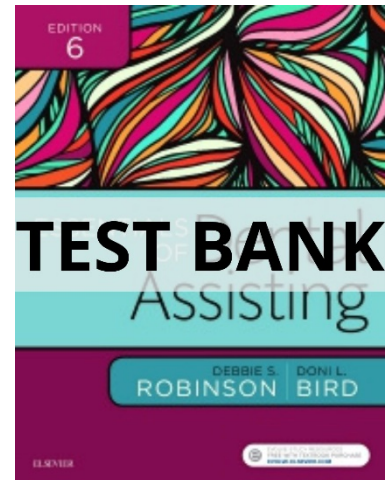
DIF: Recall

REF: p. 4

OBJ: 1

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.g.responsibilities and/or obligations of the dentist and patients in the dentist-patient relationship

4. Which is required before a dental laboratory technician can make an appliance?
 - a. A prescription from the dentist
 - b. A model of the case
 - c. Radiographs



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- d. A phone call or fax from the dental office

ANS: A

A dental laboratory technician must have a written prescription from the dentist before making any type of dental appliance. While radiographs are not usually part of a dental laboratory case, a model may be required, but it cannot be used until the prescription is received. A dentist may place a phone call or send a fax to discuss a case, but neither can substitute for a written prescription.

DIF: Comprehension

REF: p. 8

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.IV.B.demonstrate an understanding of laboratory procedures

5. The minimal amount of advanced training required beyond dental school to specialize is:
- 1 year
 - 2 years
 - 4 years
 - 6 years

ANS: B

An additional 2 years of advanced training is the minimal requirement to specialize in dentistry. Specialty training ranges from 2 to 6 years beyond dental school; 1 year is insufficient for any dental specialty, and although some specialties require 4 to 6 years, a dentist may specialize in some areas of dentistry with only 2 years of advanced training and education.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 4

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

6. Which is used to trim models?
- Vacuum former
 - Laboratory work pan
 - Dental lathe
 - None of the above

ANS: D

A model trimmer is used to trim study models and diagnostic casts, whereas a vacuum former is used to create custom trays, a laboratory work pan stores parts of individual cases, and a lathe is used to grind or polish precious metals and acrylic dentures.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 9

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.IV.B.3.fabricate diagnostic casts (e.g., trimming and finishing)

7. Which specialist diagnoses and treats the oral tissues that support and surround the teeth?
- Orthodontist
 - Endodontist
 - Periodontist
 - Oral pathologist

ANS: C

A periodontist specializes in the treatment of oral tissues that support and surround the teeth, whereas an orthodontist prevents and corrects dental malocclusion and misalignment, an endodontist treats injuries of the pulp, and an oral pathologist performs biopsies to determine the nature of an oral disease.

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DIF: Recall

REF: p. 5

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

8. The physicist who discovered x-rays in 1895 was:
- Ida Gray-Rollins
 - Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen
 - C. Edmund Kells
 - Jessica A. Rickert

ANS: B

Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, a Bavarian physicist, discovered x-ray beams in 1895. Ida Gray-Rollins was the first African American woman to earn a dental degree in the United States. C. Edmund Kells is recognized as the first dentist to hire an assistant. Jessica A. Rickert was the first female Native American dentist.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 2

OBJ: 2

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

9. The first Native American dentist in the United States was:
- Ida Gray-Rollins
 - Robert Tanner Freeman
 - George Blue Spruce, Jr.
 - Jessica A. Rickert

ANS: C

George Blue Spruce, Jr., was the first Native American dentist in the United States. Ida Gray-Rollins was the first female African American to earn a dental degree, although Robert Tanner Freeman was the first African American accepted to any dental school. Jessica A. Rickert was the first female Native American dentist in the United States.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 3

OBJ: 2

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

10. Which person is recognized as the first African American to receive a degree from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine?
- Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen
 - Robert Tanner Freeman
 - George Blue Spruce, Jr.
 - C. Edmund Kells

ANS: B

Robert Tanner Freeman was the first African American to receive a degree from the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen was Bavarian, not African American, and is credited with discovering x-ray beams. George Blue Spruce, Jr., was the first Native American, not African American, to receive a dental degree; he graduated from Creighton, not Harvard, University. C. Edmund Kells is credited with employing the first dental assistant in 1900.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 2

OBJ: 2

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

11. Which modern dental restoration resembles early Mayan and Inca dentistry?
- Implant
 - Inlay
 - Veneer
 - Bridge

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ANS: B

Early Mayan and Inca civilizations used jade, turquoise, and gold as dental inlays, similar to the gold inlay restorations fabricated in dentistry today. Implants, veneers, and bridges are evolutions of modern dentistry.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 2

OBJ: 2

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

12. Which best describes the purpose of CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation)?
- Reviews and approves dental-related curriculums and educational programs.
 - Provides professional support and opportunities for dental hygienists.
 - Promotes the dental assisting profession to enhance quality dental health care.
 - Grants professional membership to dental technicians.

ANS: A

CODA, the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association, reviews and approves dental university curriculum and dental-related educational programs; dentists, dental hygienists, and certified dental technicians in the United States must graduate from a CODA-approved program. The American Dental Hygienists Association (ADHA) provides professional support and opportunities for dental hygienists, while the American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA) promotes the dental assisting profession to enhance quality dental health care. ADLTA (American Dental Laboratory Technician Association) grants professional membership to dental technicians.

DIF: Comprehension

REF: p. 4

OBJ: 1

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

13. The tasks and responsibilities delegated to a dental assistant are determined by the:
- supervising dentist
 - state dental practice act
 - American Dental Association
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration

ANS: B

The dental practice act in each state sets forth specific statutes, regulations, and administrative rules to govern which tasks and responsibilities can be delegated to the dental assistant. The supervising dentist must be aware of, and comply with, all state dental practice act regulations before assigning any task to members of the dental healthcare team. The tasks and responsibilities delegated to a dental assistant are determined by the state dental practice act, not the American Dental Association or Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 6

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

14. Which statement is true?
- All states require formal education for dental assistants.
 - Accredited dental assisting programs do not usually provide laboratory training.
 - Assistants with additional training may perform expanded duties nationwide.
 - CODA (Commission on Dental Accreditation)-approved dental assisting programs are 1 academic year in length.

ANS: D

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Dental assisting programs approved by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) are approximately 1 academic year in length. Not all states require formal education for dental assistants, but accredited dental assisting programs are required to include didactic, laboratory, and clinical coursework. Assistants with additional training may perform expanded duties, but only within the specific state where the training was completed.

DIF: Recall REF: p. 7 OBJ: 3
MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

15. Which dental assistant works primarily in the instrument-processing area?
- Business
 - Chairside
 - Circulating
 - Sterilization

ANS: D

The sterilization assistant works primarily in the instrument-processing area. The business assistant focuses on tasks in the business office, while the chairside assistant works mainly in the dental operatory. The circulating assistant works anywhere assistance is required, but primarily in the clinical areas of the practice.

DIF: Comprehension REF: p. 7 OBJ: 3
MSC: CDA Exam: NA

16. The business office of a dental practice serves each purpose EXCEPT one. Which is the EXCEPTION?
- Record storage
 - Financial arrangements
 - Receive and greet patients
 - Appointment scheduling

ANS: C

The reception area, not the business office, is a dedicated space to receive and greet patients; the business office is used to schedule appointments, make financial arrangements, and store records.

DIF: Recall REF: p. 9 OBJ: 3
MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.C.7.receive and dismiss patients and visitors

17. Which area of the dental office is used for staff meetings?
- Lounge
 - Laboratory
 - Business office
 - Consultation room

ANS: A

The staff lounge is an ideal location for office meetings; the business office, dental laboratory, and consultation areas are not used for this purpose.

DIF: Recall REF: p. 9 OBJ: 3 MSC: CDA Exam: NA

18. Which member of the dental healthcare team does NOT usually work in the dental office?

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- a. Dental hygienist
- b. Circulating assistant
- c. Laboratory technician
- d. Administrative assistant

ANS: C

Most dental laboratory technicians do not work in the dental office with other members of the dental healthcare team, but rather in private laboratories—separate from the dental practice. Most hygienists and nearly all dental assistants (circulating, administrative, and otherwise) work with the dentist in the dental office.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 8

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

COMPLETION

1. The most important person in the dental office is the _____.

ANS: patient

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 4

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

2. The registered dental _____ is responsible for removing hard deposits from tooth surfaces.

ANS: hygienist

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 6

OBJ: 1

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

3. The team member who serves as an extra pair of hands to provide six-handed dentistry is the _____.

ANS: circulating assistant

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 7

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

4. The team member primarily responsible for the smooth and efficient operation of the business office is the _____.

ANS: business assistant

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 7

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

5. The _____ is ultimately responsible for patient care.

ANS: dentist

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 5

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.g.responsibilities and/or obligations of the dentist and patients in the dentist-patient relationship

6. Treatment plans are usually discussed in the _____ room.

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ANS: consultation

DIF: Recall REF: p. 9 OBJ: 3 MSC: CDA Exam: NA

7. If a consultation room is not available, the dentist's _____ should be used for discussing treatment plans.

ANS: private office

DIF: Recall REF: p. 9 OBJ: 3 MSC: CDA Exam: NA

8. Contaminated instruments are cleaned and packaged in the _____.

ANS: instrument-processing area

DIF: Recall REF: p. 9 OBJ: 3
MSC: CDA Exam: ICE.II.C.1 Describe how to prepare dental instruments for sterilization

9. Patients are greeted in the _____.

ANS: reception area

DIF: Recall REF: p. 9 OBJ: 3 MSC: CDA Exam: NA

10. Financial arrangements with the patient should be made in the _____.

ANS: business office

DIF: Recall REF: p. 9 OBJ: 3
MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.C.4.explain fees charged to a patient as directed by the dentist

11. The proper name for a treatment room is the _____.

ANS: operatory

DIF: Recall REF: p. 10 OBJ: 3 MSC: CDA Exam: NA

MATCHING

Match each specialty of dentistry with its focus.

- a. Oral pathology
- b. Prosthodontics
- c. Endodontics
- d. Public health dentistry
- e. Orthodontics
- f. Pediatric dentistry
- g. Oral and maxillofacial surgery
- h. Oral and maxillofacial radiology

- 1. The dental specialty in which the "patient" is the entire community
- 2. The specialty that involves the cause, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases and injuries of the pulp and associated structures

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3. The specialty that uses imaging techniques to make a diagnosis of tumors and temporomandibular joint disorders
4. The specialty involved in the diagnosis and surgical treatment of diseases, injuries, and defects of the oral and maxillofacial regions
5. The specialty involved in the nature of diseases affecting the oral cavity and adjacent structures
6. The specialty involved in the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of malocclusions of the teeth and associated structures
7. The specialty involved in the restoration and replacement of natural teeth with artificial constructs, such as crowns, bridges, and dentures
8. The specialty involved in the oral health care of children from birth to adolescence

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|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. ANS: D | DIF: Comprehension | REF: p. 5 |
| OBJ: 3 | MSC: CDA Exam: NA | |
| 2. ANS: C | DIF: Comprehension | REF: p. 5 |
| OBJ: 3 | MSC: CDA Exam: NA | |
| 3. ANS: H | DIF: Comprehension | REF: p. 5 |
| OBJ: 3 | MSC: CDA Exam: NA | |
| 4. ANS: G | DIF: Comprehension | REF: p. 5 |
| OBJ: 3 | MSC: CDA Exam: NA | |
| 5. ANS: A | DIF: Comprehension | REF: p. 5 |
| OBJ: 3 | MSC: CDA Exam: NA | |
| 6. ANS: E | DIF: Comprehension | REF: p. 5 |
| OBJ: 3 | MSC: CDA Exam: NA | |
| 7. ANS: B | DIF: Comprehension | REF: p. 5 |
| OBJ: 3 | MSC: CDA Exam: NA | |
| 8. ANS: F | DIF: Comprehension | REF: p. 5 |
| OBJ: 3 | MSC: CDA Exam: NA | |

TRUE/FALSE

1. The minimum education required for a dental hygienist is 2 academic years of college.

ANS: T

The ADA requires a minimum of 2 academic years of college, although there are some 4-year dental hygiene programs in the United States.

DIF: Recall REF: p. 6 OBJ: 3 MSC: CDA Exam: NA

2. General dentists do not have adequate training to perform maxillofacial surgery.

ANS: F

General dentists are trained and legally permitted to perform all dental functions, including maxillofacial surgery, although many dentists prefer to refer complicated cases to an oral or maxillofacial surgeon.

DIF: Recall REF: p. 4 OBJ: 3 MSC: CDA Exam: NA

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MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which agency issues the certified dental assistant (CDA) credential?
 - a. State dental board
 - b. Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)
 - c. American Dental Association (ADA)
 - d. American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA)

ANS: B

The DANB is the national agency responsible for testing dental assistants and issuing the CDA credential. Some states require dental assistant registration—however, the CDA credential is issued by DANB, not the state dental board. The DANB acts independent of the ADA and ADAA to administer the national examination for CDA certification.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 15|p. 18

OBJ: 6

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

2. Which best defines omission?
 - a. Failure to do something that should have been done
 - b. Doing something that should not have been done
 - c. Protection from criminal or civil liability
 - d. Permission to practice in a specific state

ANS: A

Failure to do something is an act of omission. Commission, not omission, is doing something that should not have been done. Immunity is protection from criminal or civil liability. Licensure is permission to practice in a specific state.

DIF: Comprehension

REF: p. 17

OBJ: 1

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.c.factors and precautions necessary to prevent lawsuits against dental personnel

3. The purpose of a state dental practice act is to provide:
 - a. principles of ethics and a code of professional conduct
 - b. contact information for professional dental organizations and government agencies
 - c. laws to protect the public from incompetent dental healthcare providers
 - d. protection for dentists from lawsuits

ANS: C

Each state has established a dental practice act to protect the public from incompetent dental healthcare providers. A dental practice act is not a code of ethics or a directory of dental organizations and government agencies, but rather an act that establishes the legal requirements for the practice of dentistry. Compliance with the state dental practice act may help a dentist prevent unwanted legal action; however, the purpose of these regulations is to protect the public, not the dentist.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 14

OBJ: 4

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

4. Which entity interprets and enforces state dental practice act regulations?
 - a. State dental association
 - b. State governor
 - c. State legislature

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- d. State board of dentistry

ANS: D

An administrative board, usually known as the state board of dentistry, interprets, implements, and enforces the regulations of the state dental practice act, whereas the state dental association, governor, and legislature do not. The governor appoints the members of the state board of dentistry, and the state legislature passes regulations to control the practice of dentistry, but ultimately it is the state board of dentistry that interprets and enforces dental practice act regulations.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 14

OBJ: 4

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

5. Which is NOT true regarding direct supervision?
- The dentist must examine the patient before delegating the procedure.
 - The dentist must examine the patient after the procedure has been completed.
 - The dental assistant must be legally qualified.
 - The assistant must have written authorization if the dentist cannot be physically present.

ANS: D

The dentist must be physically present in the office at the time a directly supervised procedure is performed. Under direct supervision, the dentist must provide preprocedural and postprocedural examinations, and the dental assistant must be legally qualified to perform the delegated procedure.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 15

OBJ: 5

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

6. A dental assistant who performs a function not delegated under the state dental practice act is:
- developing patient rapport
 - reducing malpractice liability
 - committing a crime
 - improving practice efficiency

ANS: C

A dental assistant who performs a function not delegated under the state dental practice act is committing a crime. This dental assistant is practicing dentistry without a license, which is considered a criminal act, as opposed to civil wrongdoing. Practicing dentistry without a license is likely to destroy patient rapport, increase malpractice liability, and decrease practice efficiency, as untrained and unlicensed individuals are more likely to make mistakes.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 15

OBJ: 4

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

7. The dental healthcare team, researchers, and dental manufacturers are involved in the:
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP)
 - Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)
 - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)