

**Chapter 02: Professional and Legal Aspects of Dental Assisting**  
**Robinson & Bird: Essentials of Dental Assisting, 6th Edition**

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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?
- State dental association
  - State governor
  - State legislature
  - 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)

ANS: B

OSAP, the main resource for infection control and safety in dentistry, is composed of dentists, hygienists, assistants, government representatives, researchers, professors, dental manufacturers, and dental consultants. The EPA, DANB, and OSHA are not composed of similar professional diversity.

DIF: Recall      REF: p. 18      OBJ: 9      MSC: CDA Exam: NA

8. The recognized expert in public health matters is the:
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
  - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
  - U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

ANS: B

The CDC is recognized as the leading public health expert, whereas the FDA issues clearance for all medical and dental devices marketed in the United States, the EPA handles environmental issues (especially those involving public safety), and OSHA regulates employee safety in the workplace.

DIF: Recall      REF: p. 18      OBJ: 9      MSC: CDA Exam: NA

9. The FDA (Food and Drug Administration):
- regulates dental sterilization technology
  - is responsible for the registration of chemical disinfectants
  - sets standards of practice for dentists
  - promotes infection control

ANS: A

The FDA regulates dental sterilization technology, including the manufacture and labeling of sterilizers and liquid chemical sterilants. Chemical disinfectant registration is the responsibility of the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency), not the FDA. The American Dental Association (ADA), not the FDA, sets standards of practice for dentists, while the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP) promotes infection control.

DIF: Recall      REF: p. 18      OBJ: 9      MSC: CDA Exam: NA

10. Which organization issues the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) credential?
- American Dental Association (ADA)
  - American Dental Assistants Association (ADAA)
  - Dental Assisting National Board (DANB)
  - Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

ANS: C

The DANB, not the ADA, ADAA, or OSHA, issues the CDA credential.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 15|p. 18

OBJ: 9

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

11. Which is associated with moral duty, conduct, and judgment?
- Ethics
  - Rapport
  - Law
  - Jurisprudence

ANS: A

Ethics are voluntary, high standards of behavior associated with moral duty, conduct, and judgment. Rapport refers to building a harmonious relationship, not moral duty, conduct, or judgment. Law sets forth social expectations that determine what a person *must* do, as opposed to ethics, which refers to what a person *should* do in regard to moral duty, conduct, and judgment. Jurisprudence is the theory of law.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 13

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

12. An established guide for professional behavior, in all major professions, is a code of:
- confidentiality
  - ethics
  - honor
  - responsibility

ANS: B

All major professions have a written code of ethics that states ideal behavior. Confidentiality, honor, and responsibility are valuable virtues; however, a code of ethics is a guide for professional behavior in all major professions.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 13

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

13. Which statement is true?
- A behavior can be illegal and still be ethical.
  - A behavior can be unethical and still be legal.
  - Ethical issues are subject to a few gray areas but many absolutes.
  - Laws are written to indicate the ideal standard of moral behavior.

ANS: B

Behavior can be unethical and still be legal, but it cannot be illegal and still be ethical. Ethical issues are subject to many gray areas but few absolutes. Laws are written to indicate the minimum standard of required behavior, not the ideal standard of moral behavior.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 13

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

14. An agreement negotiated between states to allow a dentist or dental hygienist who is licensed in one state to receive a license to practice in another state is:
- informed consent
  - administrative law
  - reciprocity
  - tort law

ANS: C

Reciprocity is an agreement between states that allows a dentist or dental hygienist licensed in one state to receive, usually without further examination, a license to practice in any of the other states in the reciprocity agreement. Informed consent is permission granted by a patient for a procedure to be performed after the patient has been informed about the procedure's details. Administrative law concerns regulations established by government agencies, while tort law concerns acts that cause harm to people or damage to property.

DIF: Recall      REF: p. 15      OBJ: 1      MSC: CDA Exam: NA

15. A license to practice dentistry is issued by the:
- American Dental Association (ADA)
  - state dental association
  - state board of dentistry
  - school from which the dentist graduated

ANS: C

A license to practice dentistry is issued by the state board of dentistry rather than the ADA, state dental association, or school from which the dentist graduated.

DIF: Recall      REF: p. 14      OBJ: 4      MSC: CDA Exam: NA

16. A dental assistant who passed a state examination is identified by which acronym?
- CDA
  - CPFDA
  - RDA
  - NELDA

ANS: C

RDA is the correct abbreviation for a registered dental assistant, the credential awarded to an individual who has passed a state-specific examination. The CDA (certified dental assistant), CPFDA (certified preventive functions dental assistant), and NELDA (National Entry Level Dental Assistant) are national, not state, certifications.

DIF: Recall      REF: p. 15      OBJ: 6      MSC: CDA Exam: NA

17. Each exemplifies professional appearance EXCEPT one. Which is the EXCEPTION?
- Fit physique
  - Light work-friendly cologne
  - Clean short fingernails
  - Simple makeup

ANS: B

Cologne and perfume, even those advertised as light or work-friendly, are unprofessional in the dental setting as coworkers and patients may be allergic or irritated by some scents. A dental assistant's professional appearance is demonstrated through good health, good grooming, and appropriate dress. A fit physique exemplifies good health and is important to the longevity of the dental assistant's career. Short, clean fingernails exemplify good grooming, while simple natural-looking makeup is an essential element to appropriate dress.

DIF: Recall      REF: p. 12      OBJ: 2      MSC: CDA Exam: NA

18. Which recommendation cultivates good grooming or appropriate dress?

- a. Avoid using deodorant if possible.
- b. Limit the use of tobacco products to the outdoors to avoid an odor in treatment areas.
- c. Consider infection control requirements when selecting clinical wear.
- d. Wear only inexpensive, replaceable jewelry.

ANS: C

Infection control requirements should be considered when selecting clinical wear. The use of perfume or cologne is not recommended in a dental practice; however, an unscented deodorant is critical to good grooming. Avoid, rather than limit, the use of tobacco products because the odor lingers on hair and clothing. Wearing jewelry, even inexpensive or replaceable jewelry, is not considered appropriate dress for a professional appearance in dentistry.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 12

OBJ: 2

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

19. Which action exemplifies dedication?
- a. Be cooperative.
  - b. Show empathy to a patient.
  - c. Volunteer to help a coworker.
  - d. Complete necessary tasks without being asked.

ANS: B

Treating a patient with empathy shows real dedication, which is only possible if the assistant truly cares for people, is empathetic to their needs, and maintains a positive attitude. Cooperating, volunteering to help a coworker, and completing tasks without being asked are examples of responsibility and initiative.

DIF: Comprehension

REF: p. 12

OBJ: 2

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

20. Which characterizes general supervision?
- a. The dentist conducts preprocedural and postprocedural examinations.
  - b. Authorized, delegated procedures are executed by qualified staff on a patient of record.
  - c. Delegated procedures are performed in the presence of the dentist.
  - d. The dentist guides expanded-function procedures not delegated in the state dental practice act.

ANS: B

General supervision occurs when authorized, delegated procedures are executed by qualified staff on a patient of record. In contrast, direct supervision requires that a dentist examine a patient both before delegating a procedure and when the procedure is complete; additionally, the dentist must be physically present in the office at the time the procedure is performed. Performing an expanded function that is not delegated in the state dental practice act is a criminal act, regardless of any level of dental supervision.

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

21. Consent for treatment of a minor must be given by:

- a. the child
- b. the parent
- c. the legal guardian
- d. either the parent or the legal guardian

ANS: D

Either a parent or a legal guardian must give consent for treatment of a minor (child). If the parents live separately, it is important to show in the child's record which parent has custody of the child. The child is not permitted by law to give consent.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 16

OBJ: 8

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.b.consent for routine and emergency office dental care

22. Implied consent is:

- a. the most reliable form of consent
- b. given when a patient enters a dental office
- c. adequate when the parent or guardian of a minor is not present
- d. documented in the patient record, with the signature of a witness

ANS: B

Consent is implied when an individual enters a dentist's office. Written informed, not implied, consent is the most reliable form of consent. Implied consent is not adequate for the treatment of a minor when a parent or guardian is not present—written informed consent is mandatory. Written informed, not implied, consent is documented in the patient record, with the signature of a witness.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 16

OBJ: 8

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.b.consent for routine and emergency office dental care

23. Which is NOT included in the dental chart?

- a. Financial information
- b. Consent forms
- c. Patient correspondence
- d. Radiographs

ANS: A

Financial information is not contained within the dental chart, although consent forms, patient correspondence, and radiographs are.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 17

OBJ: 8

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.1.b.items included as part of a legally documented patient record

24. What percentage of child abuse injuries involve the head, neck, or mouth?

- a. 25
- b. 45
- c. 65
- d. 85

ANS: C

Head, neck, or mouth wounds are apparent in approximately 65% of child abuse cases, as opposed to 25%, 45%, or 85%.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 17

OBJ: 8

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

25. Which is the primary factor in avoiding legal entanglements with patients?
- Maintain accurate and complete records.
  - Foster good rapport and open communication.
  - Uphold the highest standards of clinical excellence.
  - Obtain informed consent.

ANS: B

Good rapport and open communication are key to avoiding unwanted legal entanglements with patients. Maintaining accurate and complete records, upholding the highest standards of clinical excellence, and obtaining informed consent are all major areas of risk management, but the primary factor in avoiding lawsuits is open communication and good rapport.

DIF: Comprehension

REF: p. 16

OBJ: 7

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

26. The primary intent in reporting suspected child abuse is to:
- protect the child
  - help the parents
  - exact justice
  - comply with the law

ANS: A

Protecting the child is the primary objective in reporting suspected child abuse, although providing help for the parents, obtaining justice, and complying with the law are valid secondary objectives.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 17

OBJ: 8

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

27. Which duty is a responsibility of the patient?
- Request consultation when indicated.
  - Achieve reasonable treatment results.
  - Maintain confidentiality.
  - Follow instructions.

ANS: D

Following instructions is the patient's responsibility to the dentist, whereas requesting consultation, achieving reasonable treatment results, and maintaining confidentiality are a few of many responsibilities the dentist is accountable to the patient for.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 14

OBJ: 8

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

28. Breach of contract occurs when:
- a contract is drawn up for an illegal service
  - a mentally incompetent individual signs a contract
  - no form of payment is exchanged
  - either party fails to meet contractual obligations



ANS: D

Breach of contract occurs when either party fails to fulfill the terms of the written or verbal contract. A contract is invalid if it entails an illegal service or act, is signed by a mentally incompetent individual, or omits any form of payment—either money or services.

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 14

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

## COMPLETION

1. A minimum level of conduct is achieved by \_\_\_\_\_.

ANS: law

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 13

OBJ: 3

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

2. What does the acronym TEAM stand for?

ANS: **T**ogether, **E**veryone **A**ccomplishes **M**ore

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 12

OBJ: 2

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

3. Prevention and good \_\_\_\_\_ are the best defenses against malpractice.

ANS: communication

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 16

OBJ: 7

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

4. The professional organization for dental assistants is the \_\_\_\_\_. (*Provide the full name, not the acronym.*)

ANS: American Dental Assistants Association

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 18

OBJ: 9

MSC: CDA Exam: NA

5. The two things that must occur for the patient to give informed consent are being \_\_\_\_\_ and giving consent.

ANS: informed

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 16

OBJ: 8

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.b.consent for routine and emergency office dental care

6. If a dental assistant performs a procedure that is not legal, the assistant is in violation of \_\_\_\_\_ law.

ANS: criminal

DIF: Recall

REF: p. 13

OBJ: 3

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

dental practice act

7. \_\_\_\_\_ is an attitude that is apparent in everything you do and say, inside and outside of the dental office.

ANS: Professionalism

DIF: Recall            REF: p. 11            OBJ: 2            MSC: CDA Exam: NA

8. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to statements made spontaneously by anyone at the time of an alleged negligent act.

ANS: Res gestae

DIF: Recall            REF: p. 16            OBJ: 7  
MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.c.factors and precautions necessary to prevent lawsuits against dental personnel

9. \_\_\_\_\_ consent is the preferred means of obtaining and documenting the patient's consent and understanding of the procedure.

ANS: Written

DIF: Recall            REF: p. 16            OBJ: 8  
MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.b.consent for routine and emergency office dental care

10. In some states, dental assistants are \_\_\_\_\_ reporters and must report suspected child abuse if they observe signs of abuse or if they have reasonable suspicion of abuse.

ANS: mandated

DIF: Recall            REF: p. 17            OBJ: 8  
MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.d.legal responsibilities of the dental assistant in relation to the state dental practice act

## TRUE/FALSE

1. Everything that is said or done in a dental office must remain confidential.

ANS: T

All information gathered in a dental office must be held in strict confidence, including patient identity, personal or financial information, medical records, and conversation.

DIF: Recall            REF: p. 13            OBJ: 7  
MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.f.patient's right to privacy according to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

2. Patients have a right to gain access to and retrieve their records and radiographs from the dentist.

ANS: T

Patients have a right to gain access to and retrieve their records and radiographs from the dentist.

DIF: Recall            REF: p. 17            OBJ: 8

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.2.f.patient's right to privacy according to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

3. Patients "technically" own their own records and radiographs.

ANS: F

The dentist, not patient, owns the patient's records and radiographs.

DIF: Recall            REF: p. 17            OBJ: 8

MSC: CDA Exam: GC.VII.D.1.b.items included as part of a legally documented patient record

4. Spontaneous statements made by the dental assistant at the time of an alleged negligent act are admissible as evidence in a court of law.

ANS: T

Res gestae is the legal concept that spontaneous statements made by anyone (including a dental assistant) at the time of an alleged negligent act can be admitted as evidence in a court of law.

DIF: Recall            REF: p. 16            OBJ: 7

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