

Dental Assistant or Registered Dental Assistant?

Dental Assistant

A dental assistant is not registered with the Board and must operate under the level of supervision outlined in regulations.

A dental assistant may perform duties or procedures incidental to patient care, including intraoral services or assisting in the performance of clinical or clinical-related duties. Certain duties or procedures may be performed if the supervising dentist is not present, as outlined in [ARSD 20:43:08:02](#).

A dental assistant may also hold the following:

- Dental Radiographer Registration ([Ch. 20:43:07](#))
- Permit to Monitor General Anesthesia, Deep Sedation or Moderate Sedation ([20:43:09:10](#))

Permit applications can be found on the Board [website](#).

A dental assistant may **not** perform any of the following ([20:43:08:02.01](#)):

- (1) Placing sealants;
- (2) Placing nonsurgical retraction materials for gingival displacement;
- (3) Fabricating provisional restorations;
- (4) Using electronic instruments for caries detection;
- (5) Adjusting dentures or partials;
- (6) Intraoral use of rotary hand instruments or ultrasonic instruments;
- (7) Any duty or procedure that falls outside of the relevant education, training, and experience of the dental assistant;
- (8) Any procedure that cannot be performed by a registered dental assistant;
- (9) Other duties or procedures prohibited by the board.

Registered Dental Assistant

A Registered dental assistant must be registered with the Board and must operate under the level of supervision outlined in regulation. Applications for Registered Dental Assistants can be found on the South Dakota State Board of Dentistry [website](#).

A registered dental assistant may perform expanded functions, as defined in [ARSD 20:43:08:01\(3\)](#). The scope of a registered dental assistant begins where the dental assistant scope ends ([20:43:08:02.01](#)). A registered dental assistant may therefore perform the following :

- (1) Placing sealants;
- (2) Placing nonsurgical retraction materials for gingival displacement;
- (3) Fabricating provisional restorations;
- (4) Using electronic instruments for caries detection;
- (5) Adjusting dentures or partials;
- (6) Intraoral use of rotary hand instruments or ultrasonic instruments.

A registered dental assistant may also hold the following :

- Dental Radiographer Registration ([Ch. 20:43:07](#))
- Administer Nitrous Oxide Permit ([20:43:09:06](#))
- Permit to Monitor General Anesthesia, Deep Sedation, or Moderate Sedation ([20:43:09:10](#))

Permit applications can be found on the Board [website](#).

A registered dental assistant may **not** perform any of the following ([20:43:08:10](#)):

- (1) Irreversible procedures;
- (2) Cutting of hard or soft tissue;
- (3) Using lasers that are capable of altering, cutting, burning or damaging hard or soft tissue;
- (4) Intraoral placing, finishing, and adjusting of final restorations;
- (5) Supra and subgingival scaling and periodontal probing as it pertains to dental hygiene and those procedures dental hygienists may perform as provided in [SDCL 36-6A-40](#) and in [§ 20:43:04:04](#) with the exception of placing sealants and coronal polishing;
- (6) Injecting medication other than as permitted in [§ 20:43:09:10.01](#);
- (7) Administering nitrous oxide analgesia other than as permitted in [§ 20:43:09:06](#);
- (8) Monitoring patients under general anesthesia, deep sedation, or moderate sedation other than as permitted in [§ 20:43:09:10](#);
- (9) Applying X-radiation to human teeth and supporting structures other than as permitted in chapter [20:43:07](#);
- (10) Establishing a final diagnosis or treatment plan;
- (11) Any procedure that falls outside of the relevant education, training, and experience of the registered dental assistant; and
- (12) Other procedures prohibited by the board.