

A Guide to CDA Services

This document explains how certified dental assistant services are governed under the CDSBC Bylaws – as well as the conditions that must be in place in order to perform them.

- Under the CDSBC Bylaws, the services a CDA can perform will depend on the type of certification they hold and whether the service is considered a “restricted activity,” which means it poses a higher risk and can be performed only by a professional to whom government has granted authority.
- The two charts that follow outline the services that a CDA in each class of certification can perform. They also list the services that can be **delegated** by a dentist and the services that must be **authorized and supervised** by a dentist.
- Above all, it is the dentist’s responsibility to delegate only to a person they know is competent to perform the service – and to ensure that any service provided is carried out appropriately and effectively. It is the CDA’s responsibility to provide only the services they have the knowledge, skills and competency to perform.

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Classification	NOT RESTRICTED	DELEGATED BY A DENTIST		AUTHORIZED AND SUPERVISED BY A DENTIST			
	These procedures have a minimal risk of harm and are therefore not regulated.	CDA must provide the service within 60 days of the service being prescribed. Dentist does not need to be in the office/facility.		Can only be performed as authorized and under the supervision of a dentist who is in the office/facility and who is available at all times while the service is being provided.			
PRACTISING CDA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	***
TEMPORARY CDA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
LIMITED CDA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	**	
DENTAL ASSISTANT	✓			✓			
Services	Chairside assisting, oral hygiene instruction, sterilization, developing radiographs	Removing extrinsic stains not associated with calculus on the enamel of teeth using an appropriate hand instrument or slow speed rotary instrument, i.e. coronal polishing /prophy	Exposing dental radiographs	Dispensing restorative materials into a prepared cavity	Obtaining impressions and occlusal records (not restricted to alginate products)	Applying desensitizing agents, acid etch, antibacterial agents, chemical cleansers, primer and bond, and treatment liners (without pulpal involvement)	Intra-oral fabrication of single unit extra-coronal provisional restorations, including try-in, adjusting occlusion extra-orally, temporary cementation, removing provisional cement, and removing provisional restorations, provided that provisional restorations are assessed by a dentist before cementation and again after removal of provisional cement
		Does not include the use of a Prophy-Jet® or similar device Does not include scaling Applying anti-cariogenic agents, i.e. topical fluoride		Applying topical anaesthetic Placing and removing dental dams and dental dam clamps Supporting and removing impression materials after the dentist has placed them *Exposing dental radiographs	Placing and removing matrices and wedges	Applying and adjusting fissure sealants with an appropriate hand instrument or slow speed rotary instrument Using and maintaining coronal whitening systems where the concentration of bleaching agents poses minimal risk of patient harm (at dentist's discretion) e.g. Zoom!® Removing sutures, periodontal dressings and retraction cord Performing pulp vitality tests	Gross removal of supragingival permanent cement using an appropriate hand instrument excluding the use of dental handpieces

* If the dental assistant has a CDSBC Dental Radiography designation
 ** Services may be restricted until formal training has been recognized by the CDSBC

*** May be performed by practising certified dental assistants who have a minimum of one year of full-time clinical experience or the equivalent, and have received training that will allow them to provide the service competently and safely

Classes of CDAs

In British Columbia, only those Level II dental assistants who are certified by the College of Dental Surgeons of BC (CDSBC) may provide the services of a certified dental assistant (CDA) as outlined in the CDSBC Bylaws under the *Health Professions Act*.

The exceptions to this are qualified Level II dental assistants who have been granted conditional certification by CDSBC in order to obtain employment and perform the services of a CDA in B.C. while completing the certification process, e.g. writing the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) exam or completing additional education in skills specific to B.C. that are beyond the national core skills.

Practising Certified Dental Assistant – CDA

A Level II dental assistant who has been formally trained and has successfully completed all certification requirements may perform all services as outlined in Part 8 of the CDSBC Bylaws, which may include expanded services in Orthodontics and Prosthodontics if they have the designation indicating successful completion of the specific module.

Temporary Certified Dental Assistant – CDA (T)

Graduates of BC Level II dental assisting programs that have been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) may hold this certification which allows them to provide the services of a Practising CDA in accordance with Part 8 of the CDSBC Bylaws while waiting to complete the NDAEB written examination.

Limited Certified Dental Assistant – CDA (L)

Graduates of dental assisting/dental programs outside of British Columbia who are working towards satisfaction of the requirements for certification as a practicing CDA in BC.

Application for, and completion of an assessment of credentials by CDSBC is required to determine eligibility for this certification.

Dental Assistant

A dental assistant is a person other than a certified dental assistant or a dental hygienist who assists a dentist in the provision of services while under the supervision of the dentist. Dental assistants are not a "class" of CDA as they are neither certified nor regulated by CDSBC.

SERVICES	PROSTHODONTIC MODULE to be performed only by a Practising CDA who has successfully completed a Prosthodontic Module	ORTHODONTIC MODULE to be performed only by a Practising CDA who has successfully completed an Orthodontic Module
DELEGATED BY A DENTIST CDA must provide the service within 60 days of the service being prescribed. Dentist does not need to be in the office/facility.	Not applicable	Instructing in the use and care of orthodontic appliances Applying appropriate materials to irritating components or removing irritating components
AUTHORIZED & SUPERVISED BY A DENTIST Can only be performed as authorized and under the supervision of a dentist who is in the office/facility and who is available at all times while the service is being provided.	Fabricating and trying-in provisional restorations intra-orally, including intra-coronal direct provisionals, and adjusting occlusion extra-orally, followed by assessment by a dentist before cementation	Placing and removing orthodontic separators Preparing teeth for bonding or cementing of orthodontic attachments or bands
	Temporary cementation of provisional restorations and removal of temporary cement followed by assessment by a dentist	Fitting, placing, and light curing orthodontic bands or bondable attachments, with a dentist's assessment after fitting and again before light curing. Attachment by self-curing materials must only be done by a dentist, and must not be delegated or authorized to be performed by a person who is not a dentist.
	Performing non-surgical gingival retraction techniques excluding the use of epinephrine	Removing excess adhesive material using appropriate hand instruments, or ultrasonic or slow speed rotary instruments, following banding / bonding or debanding / debonding procedures
	Removing temporary and permanent cements using an appropriate hand instrument and excluding the use of dental handpieces	Fitting and adjusting orthodontic appliances and archwires followed by assessment by a dentist
	Removing provisional restorations	Placing and ligating archwires after assessment by a dentist Removing ligating materials and archwires Removing orthodontic bands and bonded attachments using appropriate hand instruments

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