

CHAPTER 575
DENTAL ASSISTANTS, DENTAL RADIOGRAPHY QUALIFICATIONS,
AND DENTAL LABORATORY TECHNICIANS

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 4/9/30

481—575.1(153) Registration required. A person shall not practice dental assisting without a current registration issued by the board pursuant to rule 481—571.5(147,153). The following individuals are exempt from the requirements of this rule:

575.1(1) Students enrolled in an accredited dental, dental hygiene, or dental assisting program;

575.1(2) Dental assistant trainees who are meeting the requirements for registration pursuant to Iowa Code section 153.39;

575.1(3) Persons who are actively licensed in Iowa to practice dental hygiene or nursing and who are engaged in the practice of said profession; and

575.1(4) Persons who successfully complete a term of practical training for dental assisting to include jurisprudence and infection control under the supervision of a licensed dentist pursuant to Iowa Code section 153.39(5).

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25; ARC 0247D, IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]

481—575.2(136C,153) Qualification required.

575.2(1) A person who is not otherwise actively licensed by the board shall not participate in dental radiography unless the person is a dental assistant or holds a nursing license and holds an active radiography qualification issued by the board and a dentist provides general supervision.

a. A student enrolled in an accredited dental, dental hygiene, or dental assisting program who, as part of the student's course of study, applies ionizing radiation is exempt from the requirements of this rule; and

b. Dental assistants or Iowa-licensed nurses who are engaging in on-the-job training in dental radiography are exempt from the requirements of this rule.

575.2(2) Any individual except a licensed dentist or a licensed dental hygienist who participates in dental radiography in violation of this chapter or Iowa Code chapter 136C may be subject to the criminal and civil penalties set forth in Iowa Code chapter 136C.

575.2(3) Any licensee who permits a person to engage in dental radiography or a dental assistant who engages in dental radiography contrary to this chapter or Iowa Code chapter 136C may be subject to discipline by the board pursuant to 481—Chapter 580.

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25; ARC 0247D, IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]

481—575.3(153) Dental assistants.

575.3(1) Dental assistant trainees are individuals who are engaging in on-the-job training to meet the requirements for registration pursuant to Iowa Code section 153.39 and rule 481—571.5(147,153). Trainees who are 18 years of age or older may also engage in on-the-job training in dental radiography pursuant to Iowa Code chapters 136C and 153 and this chapter.

a. Dental assistant trainees should successfully complete on-the-job training and examinations in the areas of infection control, hazardous materials, and jurisprudence.

b. A dental assistant trainee shall stop work as a dental assistant trainee if the trainee fails to become registered or complete the term of practical training described in Iowa Code section 153.39(5) prior to the expiration date.

575.3(2) Registered dental assistants are individuals who have met the requirements for registration and have been issued registration. A registered dental assistant may, under direct supervision, assist a dentist in performing duties assigned by the dentist that are consistent with these rules. A registered dental assistant may take radiographs if qualified pursuant to this chapter.

575.3(3) A person may practice as a dental assistant without receiving a certificate of registration as described in Iowa Code section 153.39 if the person successfully completes a term of practical training

under the supervision of a licensed dentist. A person is not eligible to practice as an unregistered dental assistant without board approval if the person has received prior discipline by the board.

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25; ARC 0247D, IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]

481—575.4(153) Scope of practice.

575.4(1) In all instances, a dentist assumes responsibility for determining, on the basis of diagnosis, the specific treatment patients will receive and which aspects of treatment may be delegated to qualified personnel as authorized in these rules.

575.4(2) A licensed dentist may delegate to a dental assistant those procedures for which the dental assistant has received training. This delegation shall be based on the best interests of the patient and performed under the supervision of a licensed dentist and may include:

- a. Placement and removal of dry socket medication;
- b. Placement of periodontal dressings;
- c. Testing pulp vitality;
- d. Preliminary charting of existing dental restorations and teeth;
- e. Glucose testing;
- f. Phlebotomy;
- g. Securing orthodontic wire with elastic chains, rubber bands, and ligature wire; and
- h. Expanded function procedures in accordance with 481—Chapter 577.

575.4(3) The dentist will exercise supervision and is fully responsible for all acts performed by a dental assistant. A dentist may not delegate to a dental assistant any of the following, unless allowed pursuant to 481—Chapter 577:

- a. Diagnosis, examination, treatment planning, or prescription, including prescription for drugs and medicaments or authorization for restorative, prosthodontic or orthodontic appliances.
- b. Surgical procedures on hard and soft tissues within the oral cavity and any other intraoral procedure that contributes to or results in an irreversible alteration to the oral anatomy.
- c. Administration of local anesthesia.
- d. Placement of sealants.
- e. Removal of any plaque, stain, or hard natural or synthetic material except by toothbrush, floss, or rubber cup coronal polish, or removal of any calculus.
- f. Dental radiography, unless the assistant is qualified pursuant to this chapter.
- g. Those procedures that require the professional judgment and skill of a dentist.

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—575.5(153) Supervision required.

575.5(1) A licensed dentist may delegate the following services to a dental assistant under general supervision:

- a. All extraoral duties.
- b. Intraoral suctioning.
- c. Use of a curing light.
- d. Dental radiography in accordance with rule 481—575.2(136C,153).
- e. Other intraoral imaging except for taking occlusal registrations or final impressions. Expanded functions may only be performed in accordance with 481—Chapter 577.

575.5(2) Dentists may delegate other services that are within the scope of practice of a dental assistant, including expanded functions pursuant to 481—Chapter 577, under direct supervision or as otherwise permitted by rule.

575.5(3) A registered dental assistant may practice under public health supervision in accordance with rule 481—574.11(153).

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25; ARC 0247D, IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]

481—575.6(153) Continuing education. For the purposes of renewal, every dental assistant and licensed nurse who holds a dental radiography qualification will complete continuing education requirements as specified in 481—Chapter 573 unless exempted by rule.

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25; ARC 0247D, IAB 4/29/26, effective 6/3/26]

481—575.7(153) Students enrolled in dental assisting programs. Students enrolled in an accredited dental assisting program are not considered to be engaged in the unlawful practice of dental assisting provided that such practice is in connection with their regular course of instruction and meets the following:

575.7(1) The practice of clinical skills on peers enrolled in the same program is performed under the direct supervision of a program instructor with an active Iowa dental assistant registration, dental hygiene license, faculty permit, or dental license;

575.7(2) The practice of clinical skills on members of the public is performed under the direct supervision of a dentist with an active Iowa dental license or faculty permit.

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—575.8(153) Unlawful practice.

575.8(1) A dental assistant who assists a dentist in practicing dentistry in any capacity other than as a person supervised by a dentist in a dental office; who directly or indirectly procures a licensed dentist to act as nominal owner, proprietor or director of a dental office as a guise or subterfuge to enable such dental assistant to engage directly or indirectly in the practice of dentistry; or who performs dental service directly or indirectly on or for members of the public other than as a person working for a dentist shall be deemed to be practicing dentistry without a license.

575.8(2) Any dental laboratory technician who assists a dentist in practicing dentistry in any capacity other than as an employee or independent contractor; who directly or indirectly procures a licensed dentist to act as nominal owner, proprietor or director of a dental office as a guise or subterfuge to enable such dental laboratory technician to engage directly or indirectly in the practice of dentistry; or who renders dental service directly or indirectly on or for members of the public other than as an employee or independent contractor for an employing dentist shall be deemed to be practicing dentistry without a license.

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

481—575.9(153) Advertising and soliciting of dental services prohibited. Dental assistants, dental laboratories or dental laboratory technicians shall not advertise, solicit, represent or hold themselves out in any manner to the general public that they will furnish, construct, repair or alter prosthetic, orthodontic or other appliances, with or without consideration, to be used as substitutes for or as part of natural teeth or associated structures or for the correction of malocclusions or deformities, or that they will perform or render any other dental service.

[ARC 8989C, IAB 3/5/25, effective 4/9/25]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 136C and 153.

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