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.

### Services

#### Prosthodontic Module
- Instructing in the use and care of orthodontic appliances
- Applying appropriate materials to irritating components or removing irritating components

#### Orthodontic Module
- Placing and removing orthodontic separators
- Preparing teeth for bonding or cementing of orthodontic attachments or bands
- 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.
- Fitting and adjusting orthodontic appliances and archwires followed by assessment by a dentist
- Placing and ligating archwires after assessment by a dentist
- Removing ligating materials and archwires
- Removing orthodontic bands and bonded attachments using appropriate hand instruments

#### 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.

#### 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.

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* As outlined in the Health Professions Act Dentists Regulation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classification</th>
<th>NOT RESTRICTED</th>
<th>DELEGATED BY A DENTIST</th>
<th>AUTHORIZED AND SUPERVISED BY A DENTIST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>These procedures have a minimal risk of harm and are therefore not regulated.</td>
<td>CDA must provide the service within 60 days of the service being prescribed. Dentist does not need to be in the office/facility.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRACTISING CDA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEMPORARY CDA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIMITED CDA</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENTAL ASSISTANT</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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</tbody>
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Services

- Chairside assisting, oral hygiene instruction, sterilization, fluoride varnish application, developing radiographs
- Dispensing restorative materials into a prepared cavity
- Exposing dental radiographs
- Placing and removing matrices
- Placing and removing impressions and occlusal records (not restricted to alginates products)
- 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
- 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
- Applying desensitizing agents, acid etch, antibacterial agents, chemical cleansers, primer and bond, and treatment liners (without pulp involvement)
- 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
- 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
- Gross removal of supragingival permanent cement using an appropriate hand instrument excluding the use of dental handpieces
- 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 programs who hold valid and non-restricted certification, registration or licensure, or who have been practising as the equivalent in another Canadian jurisdiction where certification, registration, or licensure is not required, and who are in good standing with their regulatory authority, may hold Limited Certification allowing them to work while completing the requirements for certification as a practising CDA.

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.