



College of Alberta Dental Assistants

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Position Statement

Occlusal Adjustment and Preliminary Fitting of Appliances

Based on the current education for dental assistants, CADA supports the Registered Dental Assistant making occlusal adjustments to night guards / splints, providing that the RDA is competent to perform the task.

Preliminary fitting of appliances such as, but not limited to, night guards, positioners, retainers, palatal expansion appliances and sequential aligners is permitted only for those RDAs who hold the Orthodontic Module certificate.

Rationale

Entry level dental assisting education covers occlusal adjustment to provisional coverage, and to pit and fissure sealants. Therefore a dental assistant has knowledge and skill that is transferable. It is essential that the dental assistant be able to demonstrate competence in this skill including knowledge, ability and appropriate decision making if providing this service.

Preliminary fitting of appliances is a restricted activity and entry level dental assistants do not have the knowledge or skill to provide this service. Therefore, only those dental assistants with the Orthodontic Module may fit appliances. The knowledge, ability and judgments required are addressed initially in the Orthodontic Theory Manual and then applied in the clinical setting prior to this credential being added to the RDA scope of practice.

It is the professional responsibility of the Registered Dental Assistant to ensure that all services are provided within the individual's registration, education and competence.