



# College of Alberta Dental Assistants

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## Position Statement

### Reconstitution of and Drawing Up of Drugs (i.e. neuromodulators, antibiotics in oral surgery/implant procedures): The RDA's Role

The College of Alberta Dental Assistants supports registered dental assistants, under the direction and supervision of a dentist, reconstituting drugs with water or saline (*not with any other drugs*), and drawing up (*loading*) the mixtures into syringes during dentally related procedures providing the registered dental assistant is competent in the appropriate knowledge and abilities after proper education, training, and experience as per guidelines set out by CADA (see Appendix A).

The registered dental assistant must be able to demonstrate relevant education and training. Ideally the dental assistant should be participating in the training as part of the dental team. Training should include theoretical and clinical instruction and successful completion of a meaningful examination/evaluation to ensure competence in the procedures.

*It is the joint responsibility of the registered dental assistant and the supervising dentist to determine competence.*

### Rationale

As the dental industry evolves additional dental services become available to patients through their dentists. The role of the registered dental assistant is to provide support to the dentist and the patient. Registered dental assistants have been indicating that they have been attending educational courses with their employers and are being provided with opportunities to enhance their skills and support.

Current dental assisting education includes assisting with local anesthetic and assembly of syringes, the preparation of and drawing up of irrigation solutions, the ability to access and interpret drug reference materials and manufacturer's directions, understanding the common effects of drugs, obtaining vital signs (temperature, respirations, blood pressure and pulse) and documentation of all procedures. Registered Dental Assistants are also knowledgeable about adverse reactions to topical and local anaesthetics, and unusual reactions to some materials.

Reconstitution of drugs with water or saline is not a restricted activity.

### References/Resources

Schedule 7.1 of the Government Organization Act (Restricted Activities)  
Health Professions Act  
Dental Assistants Profession Regulation  
Competency Profile for Alberta Dental Assistants  
Modern Dental Assisting 10<sup>th</sup> Edition  
Various websites

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

*Registered dental assistants may not administer any drugs (including, but not limited to, oral medications, intravenous drugs and nitrous oxide).*

## **Appendix A**

### **Guidelines for the Reconstitution of, and Drawing up Drugs (i.e. neuromodulators, antibiotics in oral surgery/implant procedures) by RDAs**

(For reconstitution of, and drawing up of drugs only as described in the corresponding position statement)

#### **Reconstitution of, and Drawing up of Drugs**

- knowledge of patient's / client's medical history
- knowledge of the classification and effects of drugs, and how they affect dental procedures
- knowledge of appropriate care, storage and disposal of sharps and supplies
- ability to access drug reference materials
- ability to assemble syringe and apply safe needle handling techniques
- ability to reconstitute medications with water or saline according to manufacturer's recommendations
- ability to draw up medications out of a vial or ampoule according to manufacturer's recommendations
- ability to record information from medication containers such as drug type, strength and dosage, etc.
- ability to provide post-operative instructions to patient / client / agent
- ability to seek guidance from another dental professional as necessary

#### **Theoretical Training**

- completion of a formal education course with successful completion of an examination to ensure competence in the procedures
- read manufacturer's instructions on proper use for safe and effective handling
- complete on-line research if necessary
- if you cannot obtain all required knowledge through manufacturers instruction or product representative you will need to do the research via sales representatives, product companies, internet, networking prior to reconstituting or drawing up medications

#### **Clinical Training**

- completion of a formal education course with successful completion of an evaluation to ensure competence in the procedures
- must be supervised by a senior professional at all times while performing duties

*It is the joint responsibility of the RDA and the senior professional to determine competence.*