

PROGRAM STANDARDS FOR THE DENTAL ASSISTANT

ISSUE	Hearing	Motor Skills (Fine & Gross)	Tactile	Visual
STANDARD	Ability sufficient to monitor and assess patient care needs, and communicate with patients.	Perform multiple motor tasks simultaneously. Fine and gross skills sufficient to manipulate dental equipment and materials; and to assist patient and dentist.	Tactile ability sufficient to feel pulse, distinguish temperature differences.	Ability sufficient for observation, and assessment necessary to assist in patient care.
EXAMPLES	<p>Give and receive information via telephone; take blood pressure; converse with patients and dentist; listen to and understand conversations between patients and dentist.</p> <p>Follow verbal instructions when speaker's mouth is covered by a mask.</p>	<p>Provide chairside assisting: operate oral evacuation system, position X-ray cone, operate dental chair, position X-ray films in patient's mouth.</p> <p>Assist patient, manipulating dental instruments or tray setups in workspace; perform CPR.</p> <p>Assembly and disassembly of anesthetic syringe; removal of sutures using surgical scissors.</p>	<p>Take pulse rate; distinguish hot or cool skin temperature.</p>	<p>Read dental instruments calibrated in fractions of millimeters;</p> <p>Read labels and calibrations, procedural sheets, material safety data sheets.</p> <p>Read and follow written instructions.</p> <p>Selecting shades of aesthetic dental restorative materials.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10/06</p>