

REVISED DENTAL ASSISTING DOMAIN DESCRIPTION

Effective Date January 1, 2007

1. CONDUCT APPROPRIATE TO A PROFESSIONAL SETTING

- 1.1 Apply the principles of the CDAA Code of Ethics
- 1.2 Practice according to the principles of dental jurisprudence
- 1.3 Apply time management, problem solving and critical thinking techniques
- 1.4 Apply effective communication techniques with clients, care givers and dental health team members
- 1.5 Recognize signs of suspected physical, sexual and emotional abuse or neglect and report suspected cases to the appropriate authority

2. DENTAL SCIENCES

2.1 ORAL ANATOMY

- 2.1.1 Describe, locate and identify structures of the oral cavity
- 2.1.2 Describe, locate and identify soft tissue landmarks of the oral cavity
- 2.1.3 Describe, locate and identify tooth anatomical landmarks including cusps, roots and surfaces
- 2.1.4 Describe, locate and identify the tissues and supporting structures of the teeth
- 2.1.5 State the functions of teeth and their supporting structures

2.2 ANATOMY OF THE HEAD AND NECK

- 2.2.1 Identify and locate the bones of the head and neck and describe their structure and function
- 2.2.2 Identify anatomical landmarks of the face
- 2.2.3 Identify and describe the parts of the temporomandibular joint (TMJ), its movements and disorders
- 2.2.4 Identify the muscles of the face and oral cavity and describe their function
- 2.2.5 Identify and locate the salivary glands and ducts and describe their function
- 2.2.6 Identify and locate the sinuses
- 2.2.7 Identify and describe the innervations of the teeth and surrounding tissue of mandibular and maxillary arches
- 2.2.8 Identify and locate the lymph nodes of the head and neck and describe their functions

2.3 TOOTH DEVELOPMENT AND ERUPTION

- 2.3.1 Describe oral facial development including the teeth
- 2.3.2 State tooth eruption and exfoliation patterns

2.4 ORAL PATHOLOGY

- 2.4.1 Describe genetic, developmental and acquired anomalies/pathologies of the hard and soft tissues of the oral cavity
- 2.4.2 Describe the etiology and progression of hard and soft tissue lesions

2.5 MICROBIOLOGY

- 2.5.1 Describe and identify diseases related to micro-organisms including bacteria, spores, viruses, fungi, protozoa and prions
- 2.5.2 Describe the modes of disease transmission

2.6 PHARMACOLOGY

- 2.6.1 Describe the effects and interactions of non-prescription, prescription and controlled drugs on client care and safety issues surrounding their use
- 2.6.2 State the purpose of recording medications prescribed including dosages and frequency

3. CLINICAL SUPPORT PROCEDURES

3.1 PRINCIPLES OF ASEPSIS

- 3.1.1 Explain the rationale for infection control procedures in the dental office
- 3.1.2 Explain approved methods for the prevention of disease transmission for clients and dental healthcare providers including:
 - 3.1.2.1 universal/standard infection control procedures
 - 3.1.2.2 sanitation, disinfection, sterilization
 - 3.1.2.3 monitoring of sterilization procedures
 - 3.1.2.4 personal protective equipment
 - 3.1.2.5 immunization
- 3.1.3 Discuss the ethical and legal considerations of treating patients with infectious diseases
- 3.1.4 Employ accepted safety standards for infection control and handling of hazardous materials and substances in the workplace according to WHMIS and Occupational Health and Safety Regulations

3.2 ARMAMENTARIUM

- 3.2.1 Identify and maintain dental instruments, equipment and supplies

3.3 TEAM ERGONOMICS

- 3.3.1 Maintain principles of ergonomics in positioning the client/operator/dental assistant throughout all procedures
- 3.3.2 Transfer instruments and materials to facilitate procedural efficiency and client safety
- 3.3.3 Apply principles of instrumentation

4. CLIENT RECORDS

- 4.1 Handle client records in accordance with legal requirements
- 4.2 Complete and update client records:
 - 4.2.1. personal history
 - 4.2.2. health history
 - 4.2.3. intra-oral/extra-oral examination
 - 4.2.4. oral hygiene indices
 - 4.2.5. diagnostic study models and bite registration
 - 4.2.6. radiographs
 - 4.2.7. photographs
 - 4.2.8. vital signs
 - 4.2.9. consent forms
 - 4.2.10. care plan/treatment plan and progress notes/treatment records
- 4.3 Relate client health history information to treatment
- 4.4 Apply charting symbols, abbreviations and tooth numbering systems

5. CLIENT CARE PROCEDURES

5.1. OBTAIN VITAL SIGNS

- 5.1.1 State rationale for obtaining vital signs
- 5.1.2 Describe procedures for measuring pulse, temperature, blood pressure and respiration with reference to “normal” values
- 5.1.3 Describe factors that affect vital signs

5.2 COLLECT DIAGNOSTIC INFORMATION

- 5.2.1 Assist with diagnostic procedures
 - 5.2.1.1. Describe the types and state the rationale for diagnostic procedures
 - 5.2.1.2. Prepare and transfer armamentarium for diagnostic procedures
- 5.2.2 Obtain preliminary impressions for study casts
 - 5.2.2.1. State the rationale for taking preliminary impressions and bite registrations for the fabrication of study casts
 - 5.2.2.2. Select and prepare armamentarium specific to the client’s dentition and anatomy
 - 5.2.2.3. Manipulate preliminary impression material
 - 5.2.2.4. Take mandibular and maxillary preliminary impressions following procedural steps
 - 5.2.2.5. Evaluate impressions according to criteria
 - 5.2.2.6. Maintain impressions according to procedural steps
 - 5.2.2.7. Take, evaluate and maintain simple bite registrations
 - 5.2.2.8. Provide pre-operative information and operative instructions
- 5.2.3 Produce radiographs
 - 5.2.3.1. Describe components of x-ray machines and their functions
 - 5.2.3.2. Describe factors that affect the quantity and quality of the x-ray beam
 - 5.2.3.3. Describe composition of dental film
 - 5.2.3.4. Describe components of the dental film packet and their purposes

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- 5.2.3.5. Describe care, storage and handling of dental films
- 5.2.3.6. Describe the biological effects of radiation exposure
- 5.2.3.7. Describe personal radiation monitoring devices and procedures
- 5.2.3.8. Describe types of radiographs and their use
- 5.2.3.9. Provide pre-exposure information and instructions to the client
- 5.2.3.10. Apply principles of extra-oral and intra-oral radiographic techniques
- 5.2.3.11. Select and prepare armamentarium
- 5.2.3.12. Expose prescribed radiographs in accordance to A.L.A.R.A. principles
- 5.2.3.13. Apply quality assurance standards
- 5.2.3.14. Process exposed films
- 5.2.3.15. Explain causes and corrective measures for film exposure, processing and handling errors
- 5.2.3.16. Describe film duplicating procedures
- 5.2.3.17. Evaluate radiographs for technical quality, accuracy and diagnostic acceptability
- 5.2.3.18. Differentiate between radiolucent and radiopaque images
- 5.2.3.19. Identify and describe anatomical landmarks and dental anomalies on radiographs
- 5.2.3.20. Mount and label dental radiographs
- 5.2.3.21. Differentiate between digital and traditional radiography

5.3 EMERGENCY CARE

- 5.3.1 Assemble and maintain emergency supplies, drugs and equipment
- 5.3.2 Assist in the prevention and management of dental office emergencies
- 5.3.3 Interpret signs and symptoms of medical conditions which may require emergency care
- 5.3.4 Assist in the management and treatment of dental emergencies

5.4 MANAGEMENT OF CLIENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- 5.4.1 Schedule appointments to accommodate clients with special needs
- 5.4.2 Determine treatment modifications prior to, during and following treatment to accommodate clients with special needs.
- 5.4.3 Provide information and instructions to clients and care givers with consideration of their cognitive level and communication ability

5.5 ANAESTHESIA AND PAIN MANAGEMENT

- 5.5.1 Assist with the administration of topical and local anaesthetic
 - 5.5.1.1. Identify precautions during application of topical and administration of local anaesthetic
 - 5.5.1.2. Describe injection techniques and locate injection sites
 - 5.5.1.3. Describe signs and symptoms of anaesthetic complications
 - 5.5.1.4. Describe procedure for application of topical and administration of local anaesthetic
 - 5.5.1.5. Prepare prescribed topical anaesthetic, syringe, needle and local anaesthetic
 - 5.5.1.6. Monitor client for signs of anaesthetic complications and anxiety
 - 5.5.1.7. Apply safe needle handling techniques
 - 5.5.1.8. Manage needlestick injuries

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- 5.5.1.9. Provide pre-treatment information and post-operative instructions for administration of topical and local anaesthetic
- 5.5.2 Apply topical anaesthetic agents as prescribed
 - 5.5.2.1 Select and prepare armamentarium for treatment
 - 5.5.2.2. Prepare injection site and apply the topical anaesthetic according to manufacturer's instructions
 - 5.5.2.3. Assess tissue for adverse effects and take action as required
- 5.5.3 Assist with sedation and general anaesthesia
 - 5.5.3.1. Differentiate between levels of sedation and general anaesthesia
 - 5.5.3.2. Identify contra-indications for the administration of sedation and anaesthesia and monitor client for complications
 - 5.5.3.3. Describe signs and symptoms of anaesthesia complications
 - 5.5.3.4. Prepare armamentarium and monitor client for signs of complications related to sedation and anaesthesia
 - 5.5.3.5. Record and monitor vital signs before, during and after sedation and anaesthesia
 - 5.5.3.6. Provide pre and post-operative instructions

5.6 MOISTURE CONTROL TECHNIQUES

- 5.6.1 State indications and contra-indications for moisture control applications
- 5.6.2 Select armamentarium, prepare for and assist with moisture control
- 5.6.3 Place and remove moisture control armamentarium
- 5.6.4 Apply and remove dental dam
 - 5.6.4.1. Select and prepare armamentarium considering the client's dentition and procedure
 - 5.6.4.2. Assist with the application and removal of dental dam
 - 5.6.4.3. Apply and remove dental dam following procedural steps
 - 5.6.4.4. Evaluate dental dam placement and isolation effectiveness
 - 5.6.4.5. Correct dental dam positioning and isolation errors
 - 5.6.4.6. Provide pre-operative and operative information
- 5.6.5 Position oral evacuation to maintain a dry operating field and client comfort

5.7 OPERATIVE DENTISTRY PROCEDURES

- 5.7.1 Identify cavity classifications
- 5.7.2 Use terminology associated with cavity preparation and restorations
- 5.7.3 Assist with the application of treatment liners
 - 5.7.3.1. Describe the functions and benefits of liners, bases, varnishes and bonding materials and the indications for their use
 - 5.7.3.2. Describe the components of bonding systems, their uses, effects and precautions
 - 5.7.3.3. List the order of placement and location for treatment liners
 - 5.7.3.4. Describe considerations for placing treatment lining materials
 - 5.7.3.5. Prepare, manipulate and transfer treatment liners according to manufacturer's instructions
- 5.7.4 Apply treatment liners (no pulpal involvement)
 - 5.7.4.1 Select and prepare armamentarium

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- 5.7.4.2 Apply treatment liners following procedural steps
- 5.7.4.3 Evaluate placement according to criteria and make modifications as necessary

5.7.5 Assist with the application and removal of matrices and wedges

- 5.7.5.1 State the rationale for using matrix systems and wedges
- 5.7.5.2 Select and assemble matrix and wedge for prescribed restorative procedures
- 5.7.5.3 Assist with placement and removal of matrices and wedges

5.7.6 Apply and remove matrices and wedges

- 5.7.6.1 Select and prepare armamentarium
- 5.7.6.2 Apply matrices and wedges following procedural steps
- 5.7.6.3 Evaluate placement according to criteria
- 5.7.6.4 Correct application errors
- 5.7.6.5 Remove matrices and wedges following procedural steps
- 5.7.6.6 Evaluate removal according to criteria

5.7.7 Permanent restorative materials

- 5.7.7.1 Compare and contrast the use of amalgam and tooth-coloured restorative materials and their qualities
- 5.7.7.2 Prepare armamentarium and assist with amalgam placement and finishing procedures, observing mercury hygiene practice
- 5.7.7.3 Describe tooth-coloured restorative materials and their polymerization
- 5.7.7.4 Prepare armamentarium and assist with placement and finishing of tooth-coloured restorative materials
- 5.7.7.5 Provide pre-treatment information and post-operative instructions

5.7.8 Temporary restorative materials

- 5.7.8.1 State the rationale for using various types of temporary restorative materials
- 5.7.8.2 Prepare armamentarium and assist with placement of temporary restorative materials
- 5.7.8.3 Provide pre-treatment information and post-operative instructions

5.7.9 Assist with whitening/bleaching techniques

- 5.7.9.1 State indications and contra-indications for whitening/bleaching of vital and/or non vital teeth
- 5.7.9.2 Describe whitening/bleaching materials and techniques
- 5.7.9.3 Describe the complications which may result from whitening/bleaching
- 5.7.9.4 Prepare armamentarium and assist with whitening/bleaching
- 5.7.9.5 Provide pre-treatment information and post-operative instructions

5.8 ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGICAL PROCEDURES

- 5.8.1 State indications and contra-indications for surgery
- 5.8.2 Prepare armamentarium and assist with surgical procedures
- 5.8.3 Monitor client's condition prior to, during and after oral surgery procedures
- 5.8.4 Describe treatment of complications which may arise from surgical procedures
- 5.8.5 Provide pre-operative information and post-operative instructions

5.9 ENDODONTIC PROCEDURES

- 5.9.1 State indications and contra-indications for endodontic procedures
- 5.9.2 Describe diagnostic tests to determine tooth vitality
- 5.9.3 Prepare armamentarium and assist with endodontic procedures
- 5.9.4 List the criteria for an acceptable endodontic radiograph
- 5.9.5 Describe treatment of complications which may arise from endodontic procedures
- 5.9.6 Provide pre-treatment information and post-operative instructions

5.10 PERIODONTIC PROCEDURES

- 5.10.1 State indications and contra-indications for periodontic procedures
- 5.10.2 Describe periodontal screening and recording
- 5.10.3 Prepare armamentarium and assist with periodontic procedures
- 5.10.4 Describe treatment of complications which may arise from periodontic procedures
- 5.10.5 Provide pre-treatment information and post-operative instructions

5.11 PROSTHODONTIC PROCEDURES

- 5.11.1 Differentiate between fixed and removable prosthetic devices
- 5.11.2 State indications and contra-indications for fixed and removable prosthetic devices
- 5.11.3 Prepare armamentarium and assist with prosthodontic procedures
- 5.11.4 Describe the dental assistant's role in written and verbal communication with the dental lab
- 5.11.5 Coordinate the preparation, packaging, delivery and reception of lab cases
- 5.11.6 Describe treatment of complications which may arise from preparation procedures or prosthetics
- 5.11.7 Provide pre-treatment information, post-operative and post insertion instructions

5.12 ORTHODONTIC PROCEDURES

- 5.12.1 Describe and classify occlusion and malocclusion according to Angle's Classification
- 5.12.2 Use terminology associated with malaligned teeth and arches
- 5.12.3 Identify and describe factors affecting occlusion
- 5.12.4 Differentiate between fixed and removable orthodontic treatment
- 5.12.5 State indications and contra-indications for orthodontic treatment
- 5.12.6 Prepare armamentarium and assist with orthodontic procedures
- 5.12.7 Describe the dental assistant's role in written and verbal communication with the dental lab
- 5.12.8 Coordinate the preparation, packaging, delivery and reception of lab cases
- 5.12.9 Describe treatment of complications which may arise from procedures and the use of appliances
- 5.12.10 Provide pre-treatment information and post-operative and post insertion instructions

6. PRACTICE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

- 6.1 Maintain filing, recall and inventory systems
- 6.2 Manage client appointments, referrals and consultations
- 6.3 Maintain financial records

7. LABORATORY PROCEDURES

- 7.1 Process impressions, trim and finish casts
- 7.2 Fabricate lab items, for example, mouth guards, custom trays
- 7.3 Maintain instruments, equipment and supplies
- 7.4 Operate equipment and manipulate materials following protocols for safety and asepsis

8. PREVENTIVE PROCEDURES

8.1 PROVIDE ORAL HYGIENE INSTRUCTION

- 8.1.1 Describe the periodontal disease process and the factors affecting its development and progress
- 8.1.2 Describe the caries process and the factors affecting its development and progress
- 8.1.3 Describe the indications, contra-indications, types, purposes and methods of application of disclosing agents
- 8.1.4 List and describe oral hygiene indices
- 8.1.5 Describe the principles of instruction and learning for individuals and groups
- 8.1.6 Collect data to assess client needs using methods such as: plaque/biofilm indices, disclosing agents in addition to observation of tissue condition
- 8.1.7 Develop oral hygiene goals using client centered approach
- 8.1.8 Select and demonstrate oral care aids specific to oral conditions to achieve goals
- 8.1.9 Apply disclosing agents
- 8.1.10 Evaluate outcomes, provide feedback and make necessary modifications

8.2 PROVIDE NUTRITIONAL COUNSELING RELATIVE TO ORAL HEALTH

- 8.2.1 List nutrients, their sources, functions and effects
- 8.2.2 Collect data to assess client needs
- 8.2.3 Develop dietary goals using client centered approach
- 8.2.4 Make dietary recommendations specific to oral health conditions utilizing “Canada’s Food Guide for Healthy Living”
- 8.2.5 Evaluate outcomes, provide feedback and make necessary recommendations and/or modifications

8.3 PERFORM SELECTIVE CORONAL POLISHING

- 8.3.1 State the rationale, indications and contra-indications for selective coronal polishing

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- 8.3.2 Differentiate between intrinsic and extrinsic stain
- 8.3.3 Describe the etiology of stain
- 8.3.4 Select and prepare armamentarium specific to client need
- 8.3.5 Remove stain according to procedural steps
- 8.3.6 Evaluate outcomes and make any necessary modifications
- 8.3.7 Provide pre-operative information and post-operative instructions

8.4 APPLY ANTI-CARIOGENIC AGENTS

- 8.4.1 State the rationale, indications and contra-indications for application
- 8.4.2 Describe the effects fluoride has on tooth structure
- 8.4.3 Describe methods for topical fluoride application
- 8.4.4 Assess client needs for appropriate fluoride selection
- 8.4.5 Select and prepare armamentarium specific to client needs
- 8.4.6 Apply anti-cariogenic agents according to manufacturer's instructions
- 8.4.7 Evaluate outcomes, provide feedback and make necessary recommendations and/or modifications
- 8.4.8 Provide pre-treatment information and post-treatment instructions

8.5 APPLY PIT AND FISSURE SEALANTS

- 8.5.1 State the rationale, indications and contra-indications for application
- 8.5.2 Describe sealant materials and their polymerization
- 8.5.3 Select and prepare armamentarium for prescribed treatment
- 8.5.4 Prepare prescribed surfaces and apply sealant material according to manufacturer's instructions
- 8.5.5 Evaluate sealants according to criteria and make modifications if required
- 8.5.6 Provide pre-operative information and post-operative instructions

8.6 APPLY DESENSITIZING AGENTS

- 8.6.1 State the rationale, indications and contra-indications for application
- 8.6.2 Describe desensitizing agents and their mode of action
- 8.6.3 Select and prepare armamentarium for prescribed treatment
- 8.6.4 Prepare prescribed surfaces and apply material according to manufacturer's instructions
- 8.6.5 Evaluate efficacy according to criteria and make modifications if required
- 8.6.6 Provide pre-operative information and post-operative instructions

8.7 USE, CARE AND MAINTENANCE OF CORONAL WHITENING BY BLEACHING TRAYS

- 8.7.1 State the rationale, indications and contra-indications for client use
- 8.7.2 Select and prepare armamentarium
- 8.7.3 Demonstrate and deliver to the client according to manufacturer's instructions
- 8.7.4 Evaluate client's ability to perform treatment
- 8.7.5 Provide post-treatment information and instructions

Terminology Used in the Revised Domain Description

The following terms are used in the revised Domain Description:

- **Client (s)** – refers to: patients, individuals, groups or community
- **Special Needs** – includes: children, geriatric clients, pregnant women and clients who are medically, mentally or physically compromised.
- **Dental Material/Biomaterials** – are addressed as they pertain to specific procedures