DENTAL ASSISTANT

KIND OF WORK

Provides technical assistance to a dentist.

NATURE AND PURPOSE

An employee in this class is responsible for assisting a dentist with a variety of duties including taking x-rays, removing and replacing ligature ties and orthodontic appliances. Immediate supervision is received from a dentist on a day-to-day basis.

EXAMPLES OF WORK (A position may not include all the work examples given, nor does the list include all that may be assigned.)

- Takes impressions for study models and opposing models for bridgework.
- Removes sutures and periodontal packs.
- Applies topical medications prescribed by the dentist.
- Charts the mouth and teeth of patients.
- Prepares patients for dental treatment.
- Takes x-rays.
- May give personal oral hygiene instructions to patients.
- Performs related work as required.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIRED

Knowledge of:

- Working knowledge of common oral hygiene techniques.
- Considerable knowledge of standard dental equipment and methods.
Ability to:

- Operate x-ray equipment.
- Chart mouths and teeth.
- Keep records and maintain files.
- Control patients.
- Sterilize instruments and equipment.
- Assist in a dental laboratory.

NECESSARY SPECIAL QUALIFICATION

Licensed as a Dental Assistant with the Minnesota State Board of Dentistry.

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