



The Association of Alberta Dental Assistants

wants patients to know who is in your



“Dental Squad”

Registered Dental Assistant (RDA)

RDA's have formal training and are regulated to ensure competency and accountability to the public. They are the most multi-functional member of your Dental Squad! They may work directly with the patient providing a variety of services as prescribed by the Dentist, Registered Dental Hygienist or Denturist such as: taking dental x-rays, cleaning teeth and applying fluoride, placing temporary restorations, removing sutures, placing clamps and rubber dams, applying desensitizing solutions, applying dental sealants, providing patient education and oral hygiene instruction. They work together with the Dentist to provide general oral health care, are responsible for maintaining Infection Prevention and Controls, and monitor the patients condition throughout the appointment. RDA's with additional training can provide some orthodontic services, dental probing and minimal scaling services. The majority of RDA's work in dental practices and some work for dental suppliers or government.

Dentist (DDS or DMD)

Dentists have formal training and are regulated to ensure competency and accountability to the public. Many work in general practice providing routine oral healthcare directly to patients. Some dentists receive specialty training to provide advanced treatment in a specific area of dentistry such as: Orthodontics, Pediatric Dentistry, Endodontics, Periodontics, Prosthodontics, Geriatric Dentistry, Forensic Dentistry, Oral Surgery. Dentists may be self-employed or work for large group practices, government and in hospitals.

Registered Dental Hygienist (RDH)

RDH's have formal training and are regulated to ensure competency and accountability to the public. In most dental practices the majority of their time is spent deep cleaning teeth and providing oral hygiene instruction. RDH's with additional training can administer local “freezing”, prescribe some medications and provide some orthodontic services. RDH's are allowed to work outside of the dental office providing hygiene services as a self-employed oral healthcare provider.

Administrative Staff

Receptionist, Treatment Coordinator, Bookkeeper, Office Manager: These individuals take care of the business side of the dental practice. Some have formal training in their area of responsibility and some train on the job. In smaller dental practices these staff have double duty as RDA's and RDH's, working directly with patients in oral health care.

Registered Dental Technician (RDT)

RDT's have formal training and are regulated to ensure competency and accountability to the public. Most RDT's work in dental laboratories but some work in larger dental practices providing in office laboratory services.