



By: Ronda V. Lane, BS, CDA, RDA, FADAA

There are changes happening right now and in the near future for Dental Assistants and the TDAA is striving to keep all of it's members informed.

Please do:

- 1) Join our TDAA Facebook page
- 2) Sign up to receive Newsletters from the Dental Board at <http://www.tsbde.texas.gov/Newsletters.html> Simply scroll down to bottom of page and sign up
- 3) Stay informed of new proposed rule changes by maintaining your membership in TDAA

Highlights of Changes:

- Even though the Coronal Polishing and Pit & Fissure Sealant certificates issued by TSBDE (Texas State Board of Dental Examiners) were abolished on 9-1,2017, the TSBDE has proposed a new rule change regarding this. “The proposed amendment will eliminate the requirement that dental assistants be certified to perform coronal polishing, but will maintain all other training requirements.” This proposal includes:
 1. Works under the direct supervision of the licensed dentist; and
 2. Has at least 2 years experience as a dental assistant; and
 3. Has completed a minimum of 8 hours of clinical and didactic education in coronal polishing taken through a dental school, dental hygiene school, or a dental assisting program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.
- **Auditing** of Dental Assistant certificates is on-going, and you will need to keep records of your CPR, CE directly related to dental assistant duties and OSHA training for **3 years** if you are audited by TSBDE. This includes your old CPR cards--do not throw anything away! Six (6) hours of CE is required if you hold one certificate and Twelve (12) hours of CE is required if you hold two certificates.
- All Dental Assistants will be required to have a registration to make a dental X-Ray. There is no longer a one year grace period allowed for newly hired Dental Assistants after 9-1-2018.
- A Dental Review Committee (term of 6 years) will be established and include a Registered Dental Assistant member along with six (6) Dentists and two (2) Dental Hygienists (these members will be appointed by the Governor by December 1, 2017). These members will serve on Informal Settlement Conference Panels and provide recommendations for the disposition or a complaint or allegation. I do not know who was picked for this position yet.
- Another amendment has also been proposed regarding Interim Treatment. “A treating dentist who delegates the provision of interim treatment of a minor emergency condition to a dental assistant shall schedule a follow-up appointment with the patient within 30 days. It is not a violation if the dentist makes a good faith attempt to schedule a follow-up appointment with the patient within 30 days but is unable to because circumstances outside the dentist’s control and those circumstances are clearly noted in the patient’s record.

There are other changes coming, and as we become aware of these changes, we will post these on the TDAA facebook page and newsletters. The TDAA has written and corresponded with TSBDE Executive Director, Ms. Kelly Parker, on several occasions and have been told that the rest of the decisions are up to the Board and probably will happen over the next year.