

**NOC
3411**

DENTAL ASSISTANTS

JOB DESCRIPTION

Dental assistants assist dentists, dental hygienists and dental therapists during the examination and treatment of patients and perform clerical functions.

DUTIES

- Prepare patients for dental examination and assist the dentist during the examination
- Sterilize and maintain instruments and equipment
- Prepare dental instruments and filling materials
- Take and develop X-rays
- Polish teeth and clinical crowns and apply fluoride and sealant
- Take preliminary impressions for diagnostic casts
- Fabricate and place temporary crowns and restorations
- Educate patients concerning oral hygiene
- Invoice patients for dental services
- Schedule patient appointments and record dental procedures performed
- Order dental and office supplies
- May perform intra-oral duties such as remove sutures, take and record vital signs, apply desensitizing agents, topical anaesthetic, anticariogenic agents and apply and remove rubber dams

QUALIFICATIONS, ESSENTIAL SKILLS & EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Completion of an eight-month to one-year college or other program in dental assistance or Completion of secondary school with on-the-job training is required.
- Licensing is required to perform intra-oral duties in all provinces. In Quebec, intra-oral duties are not performed by dental assistants.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Intra-Oral Dental Assisting Diploma- National Academy of Health and Business (Mississauga, ON)
- Dental Chairside and Intra-Oral Assistant- Oxford College of Arts, Business and Technology (Toronto, ON)
- Dental Office Administration- George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology (Toronto, ON)

WAGES (\$/hour)

- Median Wage: \$18
- Wage Range: \$13-\$26

COMMON JOB TITLES

- certified dental assistant
- certified intra-oral dental assistant
- dental assistant
- registered dental assistant

TYPICAL EMPLOYERS

- Dental Offices
- Community health centres and clinics
- Educational institutions