

Do you know what these acronyms mean?



RDA A **Registered Dental Assistant** is an individual who has graduated from a dental assisting program that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association (ADA). The individual must successfully pass a written and clinical examination given by the Michigan Board of Dentistry. The RDA is licensed to legally perform basic supportive procedures and expanded functions according to the State of Michigan Board of Dentistry Administrative Rules. **Please note: This is NOT the same as the RDA-AMT.** Upon delegation by the dentist, the RDA may perform the following functions:

Placement & removal of rubber dam	*Placing and removing matrices and wedges
Placement & removal of nonmetallic temp. restorations	*Applying cavity liners and bases
Removing excess cement from supragingival surfaces	*Placing & packing non-epinephrine retraction cord
Application of anticariogenics after a prophylaxis	*Drying endodontic canals with absorbent points
Mouth mirror inspection of oral cavity	*Etching and placing adhesives prior to placement of orthodontic brackets
Sizing of temporary crowns & bands	*Applying desensitizing agents
Performing pulp vital testing	*Taking an impression for orthodontic appliances, mouth guards, bite splints and bleaching trays
Placement & removal of periodontal dressings	*Placing, condensing, and carving amalgam restorations
Expose dental radiographs	*Taking final impressions for indirect restorations
Temporary cementation & removal of temporary crowns and bands	*Monitoring and assisting the administration of nitrous oxide analgesia
Polishing specific teeth with a slow speed handpiece before procedures that require acid etching	
Removal of sutures	

*NOTE: The RDA prior to 2003/2004 may only perform these intraoral dental procedures if they have successfully completed a thirty-five hour course offered by a dental assisting program that is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

RDA-AMT A **Registered Dental Assistant American Medical Technologists** is the credential given to an individual who passed an examination offered by the American Medical Technologists. The RDA-AMT is NOT the same as the RDA and is NOT recognized in the State of Michigan. This person may or may not have had formal education or training and may only perform basic supportive procedures as the non-licensed dental assistant.

Please note: If an RDA is hired in your practice, be sure to verify the prospective employee's credentials online under Health Professional licensing: www.michigan.gov/mdch

OJT An **On-the-Job Trained Dental Assistant and/or the Dental Assistant (DA)** are **non-licensed** individuals who may only perform basic supportive procedures. The OJT may or may not have had formal education or training and may only perform the following procedures:

- Trial size orthodontic bands
- Hold matrix for anterior resin fillings
- Make impressions for study & opposing models
- Apply non-aerosol topical anesthetic solutions
- Instruct in the use & care of dental appliances
- Place & remove orthodontic separators
- Place & remove orthodontic elastics, ligatures, & arch wires
- Expose dental radiographs **ONLY** if they have successfully completed a course approved by the Michigan Board of Dentistry

CDA A **Certified Dental Assistant** is the credential given to an individual who has passed an examination offered by the Dental Assisting National Board (DANB). The CDA is **NOT** recognized in the State of Michigan. This person may or may not have had formal education or training and may only perform basic supportive procedures. This individual may only perform the functions listed for the OJT/DA.

Information provided by: Michigan Dental Assistants Association (MDAA)

P.O. Box 118 Lennon, MI 48449

For complete information contact the MDAA or the Michigan Board of Dentistry

www.michigan.gov/mdch