

## **DENT 70 - Clinical Chairside Assisting**

### **Scope and objectives as required by American Dental Association and CA Code of Regulations**

#### A. Course and professional requirements

##### 1. Requirements

- a. Required number of clinical hours by making up any absence exceeding one day.
  - b. The first five (5) weeks of the semester are devoted to clinical practice in handling patients and assisting dental students in four-handed procedures. The clinical instruction is conducted at Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry at University of the Pacific. Emphasis is placed on general dentistry, oral surgery, periodontics, endodontics, orthodontics and emergency room treatment. During these five weeks, seminars/lectures are devoted to evaluation of the clinical experience, discussion of problems and ways of handling problems on a professional level and dental office communication skills. The second ten (10) weeks of the semester are devoted to the practice of working as a part of the complete dental team in a hospital, clinic or private office under the direct supervision of dentists and Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs). (Selected sites are affiliated with the Dental Assisting Department of City College and include general dentistry, oral surgery, periodontics, endodontics, orthodontics, prosthodontics, and pedodontics with emphasis placed on the application of the intraoral tasks assigned to the RDA.) These ten weeks seminars/lectures are held to evaluate and review clinical applications, critical thinking exercises, employment opportunities, interviewing skills, resume and cover letters, and the RDA Practical Examination duties as a mock examination. The last five (5) weeks of the semester are devoted to the State-mandated function – placement of pit and fissure sealants. During these five weeks, lectures materials are delivered and written exam, laboratory and clinical assignments are evaluated.
2. Professional grooming and attire as set forth in the Dental Assisting Student Handbook
  3. Professional conduct (ethics jurisprudence) as prescribed by the dental profession by actions in daily activities
  4. Punctuality by reporting fifteen (15) minutes before scheduled time

#### B. Procedures

##### 1. Dental schools

- a. Preset trays required for a particular procedure and obtain the additional supplies not on the tray
  - b. Disinfection of the dental treatment room prior to receiving the patient and after the patient has been dismissed as per Dental School Guidelines.
- ##### 2. School, offices, clinics and/or hospital
- a. Utilizing terminology in communication and in the application of dental office procedures with patient needs
  - b. Knowledge and skills of dental assisting in an actual dental situation under the direction and standard of proficiency established by the supervising instructor and the affiliated sites
  - c. Self-confidence by accepting assignments and performing all duties for which the students have been trained
  - d. Performance of the assigned expanded functions, chairside duties, front office and laboratory responsibilities, infection control standards, radiology procedures and restrictions to the performance of functions by RDA as defined in the DPA to

the standard designated by the instructor, and/or the supervision of the dentist, and RDA in the affiliated site

- C. Problem solving/communication
  - 1. Recognition of the barriers that prevent effective communication between the other members of the Dental Health Team and the patient
  - 2. Methods of sending and receiving messages within oneself and others
  - 3. Theories and models of factors affecting communications
  - 4. Guidelines for appropriate communications and techniques to evaluate non-verbal behavior
  - 5. Approaches and theories to achieve motivation and persuasion
  - 6. Reasons why conflicts must be resolved
  - 7. Solving a problem that affects the entire staff in the clinical facilities
  - 8. Ways to solve problems within the dental team with sensitivity for all those involved
  - 9. Discussion on how an individual's attitude toward their dental care can present a problem
  - 10. Role-playing situation and/or critical thinking exercises, the ability to discuss and solve a personal problem between the assistant and the dentist
- D. Employment opportunities
  - 1. Potential areas of employment and where to find employment opportunities
  - 2. Development of letters of application/cover letter and resume
  - 3. Preparation for personal interview
  - 4. Role play interviewing techniques including first impressions, listening, evaluation responses, and office/employee contracts
- E. RDA and CDA examination preparation
  - 1. CDA/RDA applications
  - 2. Mock written exams for the CDA/RDA Boards
- F. Pit and fissure sealants
  - 1. Anatomy and physiology of the tissues of the teeth
  - 2. Tooth morphology, occlusion and abnormalities related to sealant placement
  - 3. Salivary glands identify the location of each gland, the location of the ducts, and the composition of the saliva for each gland
  - 4. Demineralization and caries process
  - 5. Criteria for selecting teeth for sealant placement
  - 6. Effectiveness of sealants versus other preventive measures
  - 7. Composition and characteristics of the sealant material, the acid etch, and the primer material
  - 8. Bonding process
  - 9. Armamentaria for placement of pit and fissure sealants
  - 10. Preparation of the tooth/teeth for placement of sealant
  - 11. Isolation of the tooth/teeth to achieve adequate saliva control
  - 12. Technique for the use of the acid etch, primer agent, sealant material and cure light
  - 13. Placement of pit and fissure sealants on typodont teeth
  - 14. Isolation, saliva control, placement of etch, primer, and uncured sealant material on a patient-partner
  - 15. Application of pit and fissure sealants on a minimum of 4 patients
  - 16. State recall requirements for the re-evaluation of sealants at subsequent dental appointments
  - 17. Cost-effectiveness of sealants
  - 18. Infection control protocols in accordance with state and federal regulations
  - 19. Universal precaution guidelines for the placement of pit and fissure sealants
  - 20. MSDS for the acid etch and sealant material
  - 21. Hazardous waste and sharps management for sealant procedures

22. State the licensure, course, and certification requirements for a Registered Dental Assistant to be able to place pit and fissure sealants
23. Legal and ethical implications of performing duties that are not designated to the licensed RDA in the California State Practice Act
24. Preparation and/or evaluation of complete and accurate patient procedure records
25. Professional behavior and appearance in clinical and laboratory situations
26. Demonstration of teamwork with assigned student-partner in classroom, laboratory and clinical situations