

HB 2996 & HB 3223

Representative Hai Pham, HD 36

HB 2996 & HB 3223 Dental Assistant Certification and Workforce Bills

HB 2996 (Dental Assistant Radiological Proficiency): Addresses issues within the dental assistant workforce by removing the costly written requirement for dental assistants seeking radiological proficiency to allow more individuals to fill this much-needed role within dental offices.

HB 3223 (Dental Assistant Certification - Written Exam Removal): Addresses issues within the dental assistant workforce by removing the costly written requirement for all types of dental assistants seeking certification in Oregon to help get more auxiliary dental staff working within the full scope of their abilities.

For reference, Oregon recognizes several different types of dental assistants:

- general dental assistants
- expanded function dental assistants (EFDA)
- expanded function dental assistants with restorative functions certificate
- expanded function orthodontic dental assistants (EFODA)
- expanded function preventative dental assistants (EFPDA)
- dental assistants with radiological proficiency
- anesthesia dental assistants
- anesthesia monitor assistants
- anesthesia dental assistant with IV therapy certification

Current Oregon Rules

(for radiological proficiency)

- Dental assistants must complete a course of instruction for radiologic proficiency.
- Dentists and dental hygienist are attest that dental assistants are proficient at taking radiographs.
- Dental assistants coming from another state must obtain verification of competence from a licensed dentist of having been employed for at least 1,000 hours (outside the state of Oregon) in the past two years as a dental assistant taking radiographs.
- 13 other states don't require a radiologic proficiency certificate (Washington, Idaho, Alaska, New York, etc.)

Eligibility Pathways for Radiologic Proficiency Certificate in Oregon

Performance of radiography procedures by dental assistants is regulated by the Oregon Board of Dentistry (OBD) and requires that dental assistants earn a certificate in radiologic proficiency. The Dental Assisting National Board, Inc. (DANB), on behalf of the OBD, administers the Radiologic Proficiency Certificate program, a service that includes providing information regarding exams and certificates, distributing materials, administering the required exam, and issuing certificates.

A dental assistant must meet the following requirements to earn an Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate:

Pathway I

1. Complete an Oregon Board of Dentistry-approved course of instruction in radiography

Acceptable documentation includes:

- Copy of transcript, diploma, radiology course completion certificate OR
- Signed and dated letter (on letterhead) from the approved school/course provider verifying completion of the radiology course

AND

2. Pass the DANB Radiation Health and Safety (RHS®) exam

Documentation of passing is already on file with DANB and does not need to be submitted.

AND THEN

3. Obtain verification from an Oregon licensed dentist or dental hygienist that the dental assistant is proficient to take radiographs within six months of first being authorized to take radiographs*

**A dentist or dental hygienist may authorize a dental assistant who has completed the course and written exam requirements to perform radiographic procedures under the indirect supervision of a dentist, dental hygienist or dental assistant who holds an Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate; the dental assistant must submit verification of proficiency within six months of first being authorized to perform radiography.*

AND THEN

4. Apply to DANB for the Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate.

Pathway II

1. Be certified in radiography in another state that has training and certification requirements substantially similar to Oregon's requirements

OR

Obtain verification from a licensed dentist of having been employed for at least 1,000 hours (outside the state of Oregon) in the past two years as a dental assistant taking radiographs

AND THEN

2. Apply to DANB for the Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate.

Inquiries regarding exams, certificates, eligibility requirements and applications should be addressed to DANB.

Alternative Pathways to Certification (expanded functions)

Dentists are already providing training and attesting that assistants have completed the clinical requirements (for expanded function dental assistants), let's make this hands-on training standard.

To perform expanded orthodontic functions in Oregon, a dental assistant must earn status as an Expanded Function Orthodontic Dental Assistant (EFODA). To qualify, one must:

Pathway I

1. Successfully complete a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA)-accredited dental assisting program and submit proof of graduation
AND
2. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFODA certificate

Pathway II

1. Pass the DANB Certified Dental Assistant™ (CDA®) or Certified Orthodontic Assistant (COA®) exam
AND
2. Pass the Oregon Expanded Functions – Orthodontic Assisting (ORXO) exam (administered by DANB)
AND
3. Provide endorsement from an Oregon licensed dentist stating that the applicant has completed the clinical requirements
AND
4. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFODA certificate

Pathway IIIA

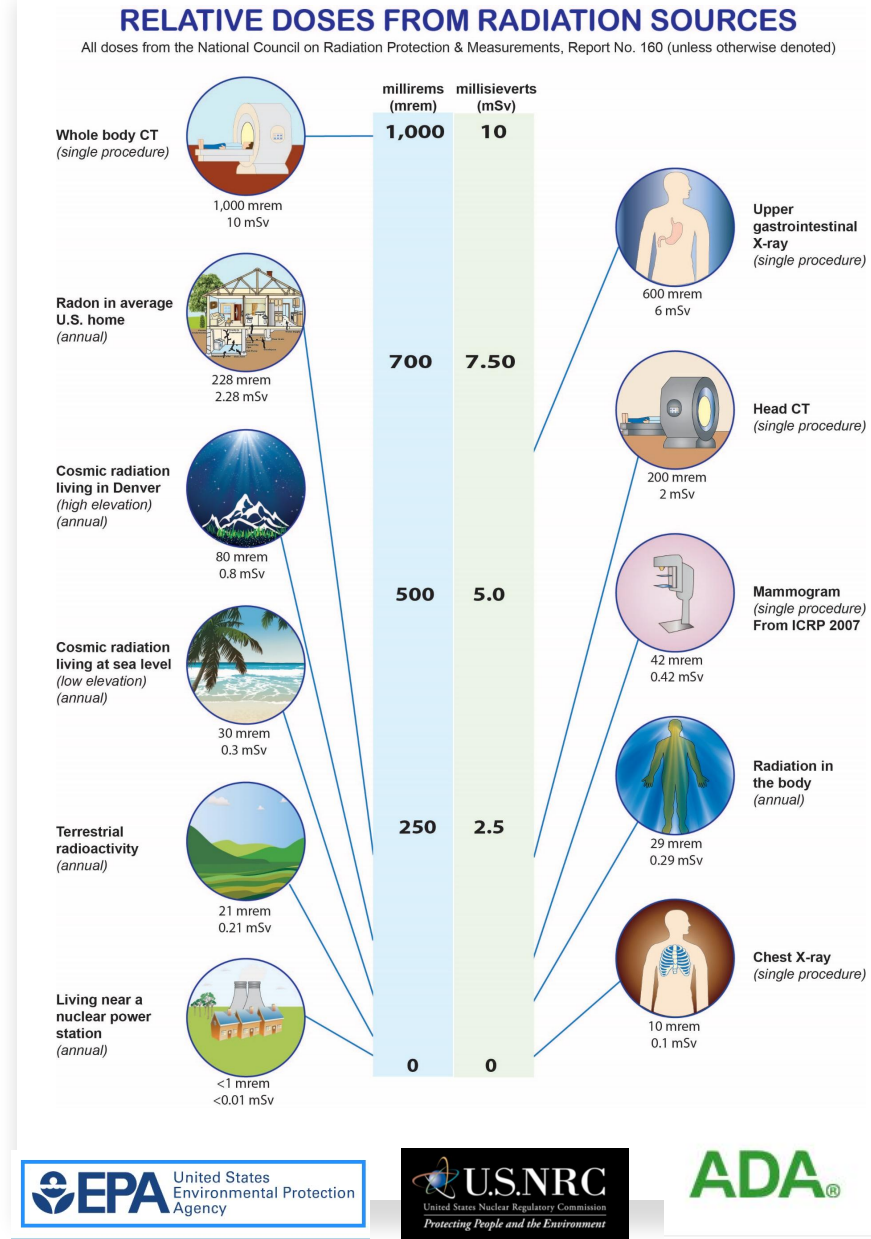
1. Pass the Oregon Basic Dental Assisting (ORB) exam
AND
2. Pass the Oregon Expanded Functions – Orthodontic Assisting exam (ORXO)
AND
3. Provide endorsement from an Oregon licensed dentist stating that the applicant has completed the clinical requirements
AND
4. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFODA certificate

Pathway IIIB

1. Pass the DANB Infection Control exam (ICE®)
AND
2. Pass the Oregon Expanded Functions – Orthodontic Assisting exam (ORXO)
AND
3. Provide endorsement from an Oregon licensed dentist stating that the applicant has completed the clinical requirements
AND
4. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFODA certificate

Dental X-rays

- Single chest x-ray: 0.02 millisieverts (mSv) (2 mrem)
- Dental x-ray (four bitewings): 0.005 mSv (0.5 mrem)
- Panoramic x-ray: 0.026 mSv (26mrem)
- Cone-Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT): 0.011-1.073mSv (1.1mrem-107.3 mrem)
- Trans-Atlantic Flight (2.5 mrem)
- Mammogram (four images): 0.13 mSv (13 mrem)
- 620 mrem a year
- 310 mrem from Cosmic and Terrestrial sources.



Oregon Health Authority

- Lead aprons can be used as a precautionary measure if a facility chooses to use them for adult patients.
- Radiation Protection Services: Lead apron for pregnant patients.
- Individuals who want to remain in the room for during exposure
- Thyroid collars required for pediatric patients.



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Center for Health Protection, Radiation Protection Services
Kate Brown, Governor


Oregon
Health
Authority

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Informational Bulletin 2016-02

February 18, 2016

To: Dental Facilities X-ray Machine Registrants and Interested Parties

From: David M. Howe, Program Director 
Radiation Protection Services

Subject: Use of Lead Aprons on Patients during Dental X-Ray Procedures

The Center for Health Protection, Radiation Protection Services (RPS) is releasing this informational bulletin to notify dental facilities they are no longer required to provide the patient with a lead apron while taking patient dental X-rays.

Oregon regulations have been repealed relating to the requirement of providing shielding to the adult patient during dental x-ray procedures. Over the last 50 years, X-ray equipment and procedures have been optimized with improved technology thereby significantly reducing radiation exposure to the patient. Lead aprons can be used as a precautionary measure if a facility chooses to use them.

RPS does recommend providing lead aprons to pregnant patients, individuals who choose to remain in the exam area during the exposure, and to any patient who requests the use of an apron. The International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) does recommend providing a lead apron in vertex occlusal examinations which may provide some additional protection to the patient.

Thyroid collars should be provided to pediatric dental patients during x-ray examinations, especially if the thyroid could be in the direct beam. The thyroid gland, especially in children, is among the most sensitive organ to radiation which can induce both benign and malignant tumors. RPS is currently considering amending its regulations to require dental facilities to provide the pediatric patient with thyroid shielding when it will not interfere with the examination.

RPS based the above recommendations on dental lead apron use from guidance provided by the IAEA and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. If you would like further clarification, please feel free to contact Todd S. Carpenter, Radiation Protection Services, (971) 673-0500; email: Todd.s.carpenter@state.or.us.



How common are head and neck cancers?

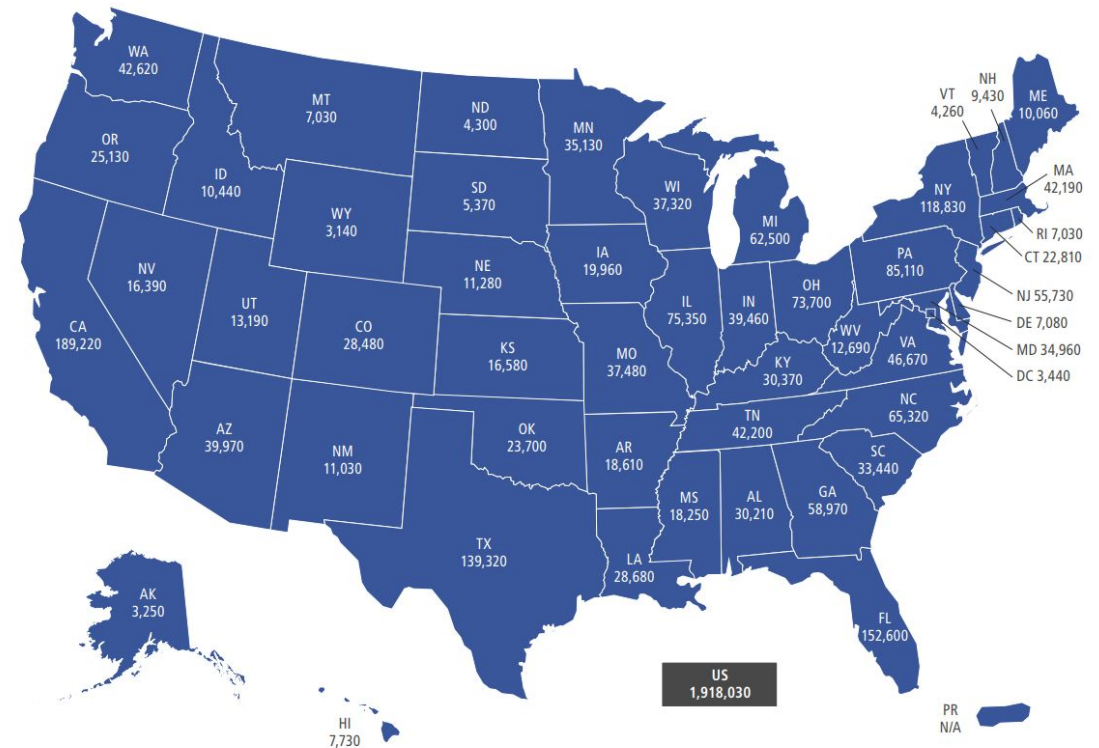
- [Alcohol](#) and [tobacco](#) are major risk factors for cancers of the head and neck.
- About 70% of cancers in the oropharynx (which includes the tonsils, soft palate, and base of the tongue) are linked to [human papillomavirus](#) (HPV), a common sexually transmitted virus.
- Thyroid cancer is linked with a number of inherited conditions, but the exact cause of most thyroid cancers is not yet known.

In 2022, 1,918,030 New Cancer Diagnosis Occurred

Thyroid Cancers accounted for 2.2 %



Cancer Facts & Figures 2022





Examination Fees (examples)

Oregon Basic and Expanded Functions

Apply for the Oregon state-specific exam. Learn about the Oregon Basic and Expanded Functions (ORBXG) exam, how to apply, how to prepare, and what to expect on exam day.

\$350

Oregon Expanded Functions Orthodontic Assisting

Apply for the Oregon state-specific exam. Learn about the Oregon Expanded Functions Orthodontic Assisting (ORXO) exam, how to apply, how to prepare, and what to expect on exam day.

\$250

Sealants

Apply for DANB's Sealants (SE) exam. Learn about DANB's SE exam, how to apply, how to prepare, and what to expect on exam day.

\$175

Radiation Health and Safety

DANB's Radiation Health and Safety (RHS) exam is recognized or required in many states. Learn about DANB's RHS exam, how to apply, how to prepare, and what to expect on exam day.

\$270

Certified Dental Assistant

Passing the Certified Dental Assistant (CDA) exam is a milestone achievement. Learn about the exam requirements, how to apply, how to prepare, and what to expect on exam day.

\$450

Restorative Functions

Apply for DANB's Restorative Functions (RF) exam. Learn about DANB's RF exam, how to apply, how to prepare, and what to expect on exam day.

\$275

DANB Testing Results

ADA's Council on Dental
Education and Licensure (CDEL)

Radiation Health and Safety Exam Test Results

National Pass Rates:

- 2019-2020: 69%
- 2020-2021: 63%

Oregon Pass Rates:

- 2019: 71%
- 2020: 74%
- 2021: 68%

DANB will continue to monitor GC pass rates by eligibility pathway at its Winter Board meetings and will discuss what, if any, actions to take, and will once again report to CDEL in Fall 2022.

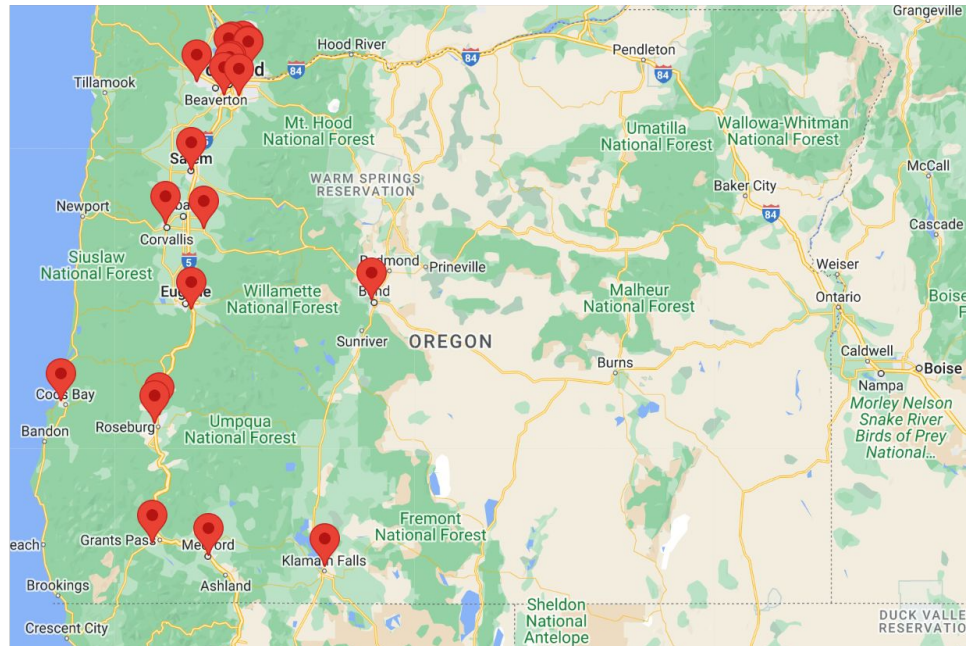
Pass/fail results for DANB national exams

Pass/Fail results for DANB national exams administered from 9/1/20 – 8/31/21

GC	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Total candidates	2,732	3,990
Pass	2,220	3,085
Fail	512	905
Pass rate	81%	77%
RHS	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Total candidates	9,246	12,648
Pass	6,361	7,972
Fail	2,885	4,676
Pass rate	69%	63%
ICE	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Total candidates	5,025	6,481
Pass	3,835	4,595
Fail	1,190	1,886
Pass rate	76%	71%
OA	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Total candidates	80	95
Pass	44	59
Fail	36	36
Pass rate	55%	62%
CP	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Total candidates	398	442
Pass	250	307
Fail	148	135
Pass rate	63%	69%
SE	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Total candidates	61	90
Pass	41	56
Fail	20	34
Pass rate	67%	62%

Barriers to the Workforce & Access to Care

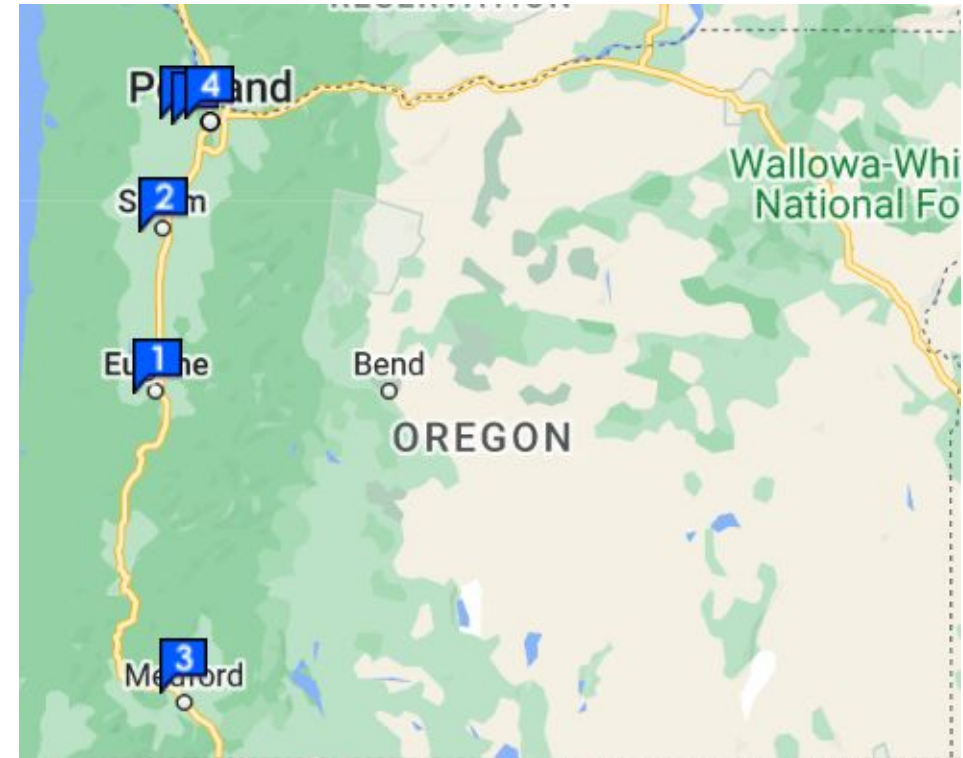
Sites that Offer Courses (CODA Accredited)



Oregon

- 0737 Central Oregon Community College
- 0664 Chemeketa Community College
- 0665 Lane Community College
- 0632 Linn-Benton Community College
- 0668 Portland Community College
- 0202 Umpqua Community College

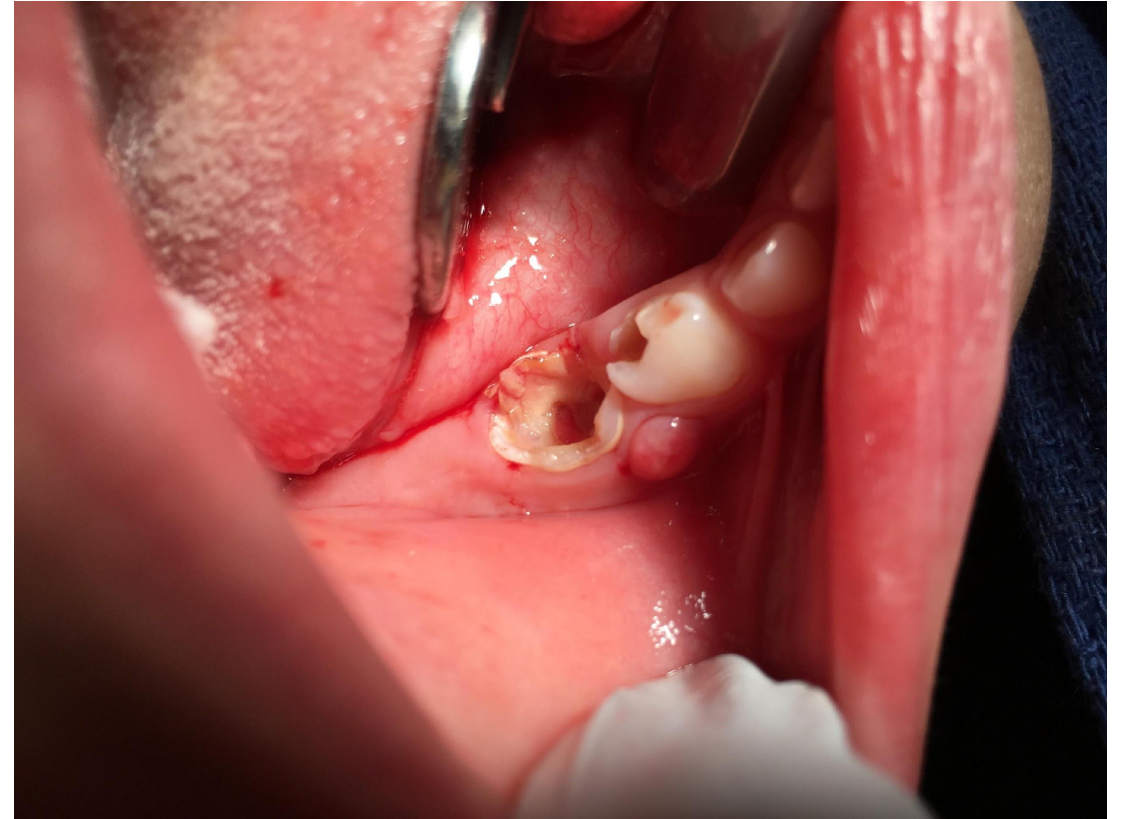
6 Testing Centers or Proctored Online



Many areas of the state still don't have access to broadband. And some individuals still don't have access to computers and cameras to access the online proctored test.

Warning: Graphic Dental Picture Ahead

Lack of Dental Assistants is causing access to care issues and poor outcomes for patients



It Takes a Village

