

Submitter: Kari Hiatt

On Behalf of: Committee: Senate Committee Health Care

Measure: HB3223

Chair Patterson, Vice Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

For the record, my name is Kari Hiatt from Portland. I've been a dental assistant educator for the past 15 years.

I recognize that there are six expanded function certifications that dental assistants can earn in the state of Oregon. My comments will focus on the Expanded Function Dental Assistant certification, which is most widely held.

Dental assistants earn the Expanded Function Dental Assistant, or EFDA, credential via one of four pathways. Each pathway requires candidates to demonstrate a **basic minimum competency level** as part of the credentialing process. If passed, HB 3223 would eliminate the need to verify that all candidates have the same knowledge base in order to safely and confidently do the work that is required of an EFDA. Not one, but three exams would be eliminated by the passage of this bill – the Oregon Basic Dental Assisting (ORB) exam, the Oregon Expanded Functions – General Dental Assisting (ORXG) exam, and the Infection Control Exam (ICE).

In the EFDA pathway our school follows, candidates choose to take one of two exams – the ICE or the ORB. Our students often choose to take the ICE. This exam covers prevention of disease transmission, prevention of cross-contamination, occupational safety and administration protocols, and processing instruments and devices. Knowledge of how to perform infection control procedures correctly is critical in protecting patients and dental team members from transmission of infections, such as HIV, hepatitis, influenza and COVID.

The alternative to taking the ICE is to take the state Oregon Basic Dental Assisting exam (ORB). Infection control and occupational safety are covered in the ORB with the addition of other domains including legal issues, collection of clinical data, management of emergencies, anatomy, and general procedures.

The other test that our students take to earn their EFDA is the Oregon Expanded Functions – General Dental Assisting (ORXG) exam. This exam tests the candidate's knowledge about the EFDA skills they will perform when EFDA certified. I recently took the state-issued ORXG exam for the first time. I wanted to know what was on the exam to help better prepare students. I noticed that a main theme of the exam is centered around safety and the ramifications of what happens if an EFDA skill is not done correctly inside a patient's mouth. The test also focuses on the purpose(s) and the rationale(s) of each skill.

Dental assisting, like dentistry, has a steep learning curve. Understanding the concepts and material covered in these exams helps to mitigate the challenges an entry-level dental assistant will experience. These tests objectively verify that EFDA's have the

knowledge and understanding they need to perform the duties entrusted to them safely, effectively and correctly.

Very Respectfully,

Kari Hiatt, MS, CDA, EFDA, EFODA
 Dental Assistant Program Director
 Clackamas Community College

Oregon EFDA Certificate Pathways

<p>Pathway I</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold the Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate (ORCR) <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Complete a Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA) accredited dental assisting program (see www.danb.org) and submit proof of graduation. <p>AND THEN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFDA certificate 	<p>Pathway II</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold the Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate (ORCR) <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Pass the DANB Certified Dental Assistant™ (CDA®) exam <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Pass the Oregon Expanded Functions — General Dental Assisting exam (ORXG) <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Obtain endorsement from a dentist licensed in Oregon stating that the applicant has completed clinical requirements <p>AND THEN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFDA certificate 	<p>Pathway IIIA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold the Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate (ORCR) <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Pass the Oregon Basic Dental Assisting exam (ORB) <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Pass the Oregon Expanded Functions — General Dental Assisting exam (ORXG) <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Obtain endorsement from a dentist licensed in Oregon stating that the applicant has completed clinical requirements <p>AND THEN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFDA certificate 	<p>Pathway IIIB</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hold the Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate (ORCR) <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Pass the DANB Infection Control (ICE®) exam <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Pass the Oregon Expanded Functions — General Dental Assisting exam (ORXG) <p>AND</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Obtain endorsement from a dentist licensed in Oregon stating that the applicant has completed clinical requirements <p>AND THEN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFDA certificate
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Pathway IV (contact vipservice@danb.org to confirm eligibility and request a pathway 4 application)

1. Be certified in another state that has training and certification requirements substantially similar to Oregon's requirements
 OR
 Obtain verification of competence from a licensed dentist of having been employed for at least 1,000 hours in the past two years as a dental assistant performing expanded functions substantially similar to Oregon's
2. Apply to DANB for the Oregon EFDA certificate by credential

ORB Exam Outline	
100-125 multiple-choice items 1½ hours testing time	
Domain	% of Items
1. Infection control and microbiology	20-25
2. Collection of clinical data	10-15
3. Management of emergencies	15-20
4. Occupational safety	10-15
5. Legal issues	10-15
6. Anatomy	10-15
7. General procedures	5-10

(placing/removing rubber dams and taking impressions)

ORXG Exam Outline	
90-100 multiple-choice items 1 ¼ hours testing time	
Domain	% of Items
1. Placing matrices	15-20
2. Polishing amalgams	10-15
3. Cement removal	10-15
4. Taking impressions	1-5
5. Coronal polishing	20-25
6. Fabricating temporary crowns <i>(Including fabricating, initial placement, removal, trial fitting and understanding mechanism)</i>	25-30
Tooth whitening	1-5

ICE Exam

Exam Weighting by Domain

- I. Prevention of Disease Transmission (20%)
- II. Prevention of Cross-contamination (34%)
- III. Process Instruments and Devices (26%)
- IV. Occupational Safety and Administration Protocols (20%)