

Brief overview of dental assistants ability to take radiographs

Dental assistants who are in a OBD Board approved radiology course **can learn on the job to take dental radiographs under the direct supervision of an Oregon licensed dentist, dental therapist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant who is x-ray certified.**

Pursuant to the Oregon Health Authority, Radiation Protection Service rule's a dental assistant who is in a Board approved radiology course can take x-rays on patients in a dental office under the direct supervision of an Oregon licensed dentist, dental therapist dental hygienist, or dental assistant who is x-ray certified. The OBD has a list of those individuals (174) who have already been approved to teach a course, in addition the OBD has also approved an online course through the DALE Foundation:

Radiation Protection Services Rule (OAR 333-106-0050(c)) Dental radiology students in an approved Oregon Board of Dentistry dental radiology course are permitted to take dental radiographs on human patients during their clinical training, under the direct supervision of a dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist currently licensed, or a dental assistant who has been certified in radiologic proficiency by the Oregon Board of Dentistry.

The OBD issues instructor permits to those licensees and assistants who wish to teach a Board approved course in radiologic proficiency to dental assistants which then allows the assistant to learn and take radiographs on the job. **Please note, if an assistant is in any Board approved course, they can take radiographs in a dental office under direct supervision, even if the licensee or assistant who is supervising them are not an approved instructor.**

Once the assistant has completed the Board approved course and has passed the written Radiation, Health, and Safety examination, through the Dental Assisting National Board, the assistant pursuant to OAR 818-042-0050 **may take radiographs up to six months** once authorized by a dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist:

(2) A licensee may authorize a dental assistant who has completed a course of instruction approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry, and who has passed the written Dental Radiation Health and Safety Examination administered by the Dental Assisting National Board, or comparable exam administered by any other testing entity authorized by the Board, or other comparable requirements approved by the Oregon Board of Dentistry to place films/sensors, adjust equipment preparatory to exposing films/sensors, and expose the films and create the images under the indirect supervision of a dentist, dental therapist, dental hygienist, or dental assistant who holds an Oregon Radiologic Proficiency Certificate. The dental assistant must submit within six months, certification by an Oregon licensed dentist, dental therapist, or dental hygienist that the assistant is proficient to take radiographic images.