

Dental Quality Assurance Commission Newsletter—November 2014

Hot Topic

Dental Assistant Scope of Practice

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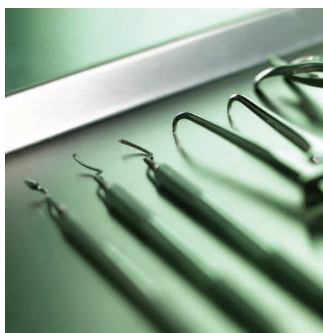
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What can a dental assistant do? Have you ever hired a dental assistant who came from another office and said, "I can do that. Dr. X trained me. I do it all the time." Or another assistant who refuses to do something you ask saying, "Dr. X told us that we weren't allowed to do that under Washington State Law." Why is there any question? There are laws and rules that specify what can and cannot be delegated. Why is it so confusing?

There are several reasons for the confusion. One is we all have different ways of reading and interpreting rules and laws. Some of the confusion is caused by the way the rules are written. There are lists of tasks which can

be delegated and other lists of tasks which can never be delegated. But what if a task isn't on either list? The Washington State Dental Quality Assurance Commission's "Dental Assistant Scope of Practice Committee" is currently reviewing all the rules ([WAC's 246-817-510 through 246-817-545](#)) governing delegation of duties to dental assistants and expanded function dental auxiliaries in an attempt to both clarify the rules and bring the rules into alignment with current statutes and standards of practice. The Dental Assistant Scope of Practice Committee welcomes input from all stakeholders regarding potential changes to these rules. To participate, attend the committee's next meeting on Friday, December 12, 2014. Or you can provide written suggestions or comments directly to [Jennifer Santiago](#).



Dear Dr. DQAC

Dear Dr. DQAC,

I forgot to renew my dental assistant registration and now I'm afraid to tell anyone. I usually get something in the mail but we moved to take care of my husband's mom and it must have gotten lost. It's been one month now and the office manager told me that I can't come to work until I get it renewed. If the DQAC suspends me I'll lose my income and it is really tight now for my family. I talked to my boss and told him that if he didn't let me work then I would have to tell the DQAC that he has been letting me work

on an expired license for nine months and it might not look good for him either. He's thinking about letting me work until I get the license renewed. Is it the dentist's fault? Will I get suspended? Will there be a big fine? Will my dentist get in trouble?
Signed, Down in the Mouth

Dear "Down",

It sounds as though this was just an oversight and should be resolved rather easily. The fastest resolution would be to come to Tumwater, pay
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Tramadol Rescheduled

Tramadol: Schedule IV Controlled Substance

ensure that the prescriber has a valid DEA registration, as required for all controlled substance prescriptions. All prescribers who do not have a valid DEA registration will not be able to issue prescriptions or personally furnish tramadol or tramadol-containing products.

If a prescription for a tramadol product was issued prior to August 18, 2014 and refills were authorized, as of August 18, 2014 those refills must be limited to no more than five and must be dispensed no later than six months after the date the prescription was initially issued.

No electronic prescriptions for tramadol or products containing tramadol may be sent to a pharmacy using an electronic prescription transmission system unless the prescriber's and the receiving pharmacy's systems meet the DEA authenticated system requirements addressed in 21 CFR 1311.

For additional information, please contact the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission at 360-236-4834 or the Drug Enforcement Administration at 206-553-5443.

Inventory: All pharmacies and any persons who handle, manufacture, distribute, dispense, import, export, engage in research, conduct instructional activities with or possess tramadol, must take an inventory of their current stock of tramadol and other products containing tramadol on August 18, 2014.

Registration: Any location possessing tramadol or products containing tramadol that is not currently registered with U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) must apply for and receive a DEA registration prior to August 18, 2014. Alternatively, those locations not wishing to seek DEA registration must remove all tramadol products from their possession prior to August 18, 2014.

Prescriptions: All current prescriptions for tramadol and products containing tramadol must be treated as controlled substance prescriptions on and after August 18, 2014.

Prior to filling/refilling a tramadol prescription on or after August 18, 2014,

Effective August 18, 2014 tramadol and products containing tramadol will be classified as Schedule IV controlled substances pursuant to 21 CFR 1308.



Hydrocodone

Effective Monday, October 6, 2014, hydrocodone combination products (HCPs) are rescheduled to Schedule II.

The [Pharmacy Commission has put together information on the topic.](#)

[Read the rule here](#)

[DEA fact sheet](#)

Reader Input

The commission is looking for reader input. If you want to read about something specific, please let us know.



Dentistry Growing

By Bree Kramer, Licensed Expanded Function Dental Auxiliary

The world of dentistry is growing and evolving every day. Technology is creating more enhancements and opportunities. With these changes dental assistants are counted on even more than before, and are able to expand their skills. There are approximately 13,000 registered dental assistants and 6,000 licensed dentists in Washington State.

Long gone are the days of just sterilizing, mixing materials, and cleaning up. Assistants here in Washington are allowed and now counted on to perform tasks from placing sealants, rubber dams, and matrices to making temporary crowns and bridges.



Assistants now have an opportunity to become Expanded Function Dental Auxiliaries (EFDA's). EFDA's are educated, trained, and licensed to practice restorative and take final impressions. Becoming a dental anesthesia assistant is another avenue that recently was established for assistant growth.

While laws allowing assistants to take impressions, whether with impression material or CAD/CAM, are still being reviewed, it is these changes that enable assistants to do more. Use of assistants allow more time for the doctor, better overall patient care, and increased productivity for the office. I personally feel very privileged to be practicing in a state as progressive as Washington.

Dear Dr. DQAC

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your renewal fee of \$21 plus a late fee of \$21 and you will be back to work. Mailing the renewal payment will take a longer and you may have a week to two weeks without work depending on the delivery service.

It's always best to act quickly in the case of an expired credential.

Where there is an extensive delay in renewing your registration or where you are habitually late, the commission may open a case to study the reasons and this will delay the renewal process.

The dentist in charge is not responsible for renewing your registration. The dentist is responsible to ensure that you have an active registration.

Dr. D

Dear Dr. DQAC,

For patients who are on non-private coverage (state), how can we help them find providers in a web-based simple manner?"

I understand we can just tell them to call their insurance and/or refer them to a hospital (this is what is commonly done) but that's not a patient-centered solution and not cost effective for the hospitals to sort all these patients out. There has got to be a simple way to directly refer these patients to providers who can help them.

Thanks! "Doc with a View"

Dear Doc with a View,

You are not the only clinician to recognize the folly in pretending that poor oral health has nothing to do with general health and the healthcare system. Nice work in trying to help your patients with the maze of care that exists with the change from Medicaid to Washington Apple Health. I tried these resources and was able to connect with resources for my adult and child patients.

I started with the home page for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services; <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/children.shtml>. From

the home page you'll find tabs for children and adults. Clicking on either of these tabs will take you to a screen that will link you to dental services for children or adults. I ventured through the process and was able to find two clinics providing dental care for children and adults.

In addition, <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/OralHealth/FindingDentalCare> has links to a number of other dental resources. Where transportation is an issue, there may be some assistance in that area as well.

Dr. D



Frequently Asked Questions

RCW 70.02 Medical Records – Health Care Information Access and Disclosure

How long must I keep a patient record?



Five years according to the maintenance and retention of records law, [WAC 246-817-310](#). Note: The commission is currently modifying WAC 246-817-310. To receive important information about rule changes by email, [join our listserv](#).

Can I charge a patient for a copy of the patient record?

Yes. A reasonable fee is defined in [RCW 70.02.010](#). [WAC 246-08-400](#) details how much can be charged. The fees a provider may charge cannot exceed the fees listed below:

- (1) Copying charge per page:
 - (a) No more than \$1.09 per page for the first 30 pages;
 - (b) No more than 82 cents per page for all other pages.
- (2) Additional charges:
 - (a) The provider can charge a \$24 clerical fee for searching and han-

dling records;

(b) If the provider personally edits confidential information from the record as required by statute, the provider can charge the usual fee for a basic office visit.

When must I respond to a request for a patient record?

[RCW 70.02.080](#) requires a practitioner to respond to a written request from a patient no later than 15 working days after receiving the request.

Can I withhold a copy of a patient record for non-payment of services or overdue bill?

No. [RCW 70.02.090](#) allows for denying a request only for specific purposes. Non-payment or an overdue bill are not allowable reasons to deny a request for examination or copy of record.

Pro-tem members are part-time commission members appointed by the Secretary of Health for specific tasks. Your time commitment is minimal. Here is a link to our [application](#).

Commission Public Member

The commission is looking for a pro-tem public member. We are looking for people willing to study the issues and make decisions in the best interest of the public.

Please contact [Jennifer Santiago](#) for information.

INFAMOUS OR FAMOUS

Elly Patterson is the charming



protagonist in the comic strip "For Better or Worse." She is married to a dentist and early on would occasionally fill in at the office as a dental assistant.

It is the purpose of the commission established in [RCW 18.32.0351](#) to regulate the competency and quality of professional health care providers under its jurisdiction by establishing, monitoring, and enforcing qualifications for licensure, continuing education, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline.

Collaboration of Dental Professionals

Dental Quality Assurance Commission and Dental Hygiene Examining Committee

Hygienists are an important part of the dental team. State regulatory entities differ for dentists and hygienists but the issues we face are similar and the patients we treat, we treat together.

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission (commission) and the Dental Hygiene Examining Committee (hygiene committee) are collaborating on dental-related topics and issues.

The commission first met with the hygiene committee on June 6, 2014 and agreed to attend each other's meetings when possible. The commission invited a hygiene committee member to join the Educational Outreach Committee, Ms. Jacqueline Perry, RDH agreed to participate. Drs. Song and Mercier attended the hygiene committee meeting on August 15, 2014. The commission and the hygiene committee met again on October 24, 2014.

Some of the topics being discussed

include:

- Future rule changes of delegated tasks to dental hygienists under chapter 246-817 WAC.
- Adding hygienists to the commission and/or combining the commission and hygiene committee.

Working together will bridge a gap that is long overdue. The commission encourages dentists and hygienists to attend both commission and hygiene committee meetings to keep informed on dental-related regulation and issues.

[Dental Quality Assurance Commission](#)

[Dental Hygiene Examining Committee](#)



Renew your credential online



Dentists, dental hygienists, dental assistants, expanded function dental auxiliaries, and dental anesthesia assistants who are within 60 days of their license expiration date, are able to renew their active status licenses, registrations or certifications online.

To renew online, you must register with Secure Access Washington and sign-in to the Department of Health Online Services.

Go to the [Secure Access Washington \(SAW\) website](#). Here is a link to [online renewal frequently asked questions](#).

If you're having problems with the Department of Health Online Services site, [contact our Customer Service Office by email](#) or phone at 360-236-4700.

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Customer Service 360-236-4700
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2014 Commission Meeting Dates

Dec. 12

2015 Commission Meeting Dates

Jan. 23

Mar. 6

Apr. 24

Jun. 5

Jul. 17

Sept. 11

Oct. 23

Dec. 11

Public Health - Always Working for a Safer and Healthier Washington.

Herbal Supplements and Possible Drug Interactions

By Jacqueline Perry, BSDH, RDH, LE, COE

In the last decade, the use of herbal supplements has created a multi-billion dollar industry. Last year the average American spent over \$1.9 billion on herbal supplements and over \$33.9 billion on alternative medicine. More and more of our patients are becoming proactive in their approach to healthcare, with many seeking alternatives to prescription drugs and modern medicine.

Companies such as Super Supplements and GNC, along with "Celebrity Physicians" such as Dr. Oz, have helped increase awareness of some benefits that may be gained by using herbal supplements. But, along with some benefits may come some risks that our patients may not be aware of when combining these supplements with their existing prescription medications. Some patients may neglect to include herbal supplements on their healthcare intake form because these herbal supplements are not viewed by some as "real medications." After all, "Aren't they just herbs?" It is up to us as healthcare providers to know of some of the possible interactions these "herbs" may have on their health and how they may effect our treatment.

The list of herbal supplements is vast so I will focus on a few.

Red Yeast Rice: In Japanese, Red Yeast Rice is referred to as "Koji," which means grain or bean overgrown with mold culture.

This mold culture contains a naturally occurring statin called MEVINOLIN. MEVINOLIN has been shown to be identical to LOVASTATIN. A common use of Red Yeast Rice is assisting in controlling Hyperlipidemia. Clinical studies have shown Red Yeast Rice lowers Triglycerides, total cholesterol and LDLs in people with hyperlipidemia.

Drug interactions may occur with CYCLOSPORINS, ERYTHROMYCINS and AZOLE ANTI-FUNGALS. It has also been shown that Red Yeast Rice may increase the chances of Myopathy, Rhabdomyolysis and

increase the risk of excessive bleeding in patients who are on Warfarin or other anti-coagulants.

Ginkgo: Derived from the maidenhair tree, which is one of the oldest trees on earth. It is indigenous to Japan, China and Korea. In Japan, the seeds of the Ginkgo tree were served to guests along with alcoholic drinks. An enzyme present in Ginkgo seeds has been clinically shown to speed up alcohol metabolism. Common uses of Ginkgo include treating Alzheimer's and non-Alzheimer's dementia, intermittent claudication, Raynaud's disease, varicose veins, premenstrual syndrome, penile dysfunctions and has been shown to help relieve headaches. Ginkgo acts by increasing blood flow through the body, particularly cerebral blood flow. Ginkgo also stimulates nerve cell activity. Drug interactions may include interactions with aspirin and anticoagulants. Patients on anticoagulants should avoid Ginkgo two days before and one to two weeks after any surgery to avoid bleeding complications.

Zinc: Zinc is a trace mineral that plays an important role in our immune systems. Common uses of Zinc include combating upper respiratory infections, decreasing rhinovirus activity by binding to the viral surface inhibiting the viral activity. Zinc also can aid in the slowing of Macular Degeneration. Drug interactions may include interfering with the absorption of Tetracyclines, Fluorquinolones, and Penicillins.

Red Yeast Rice has been removed from market and is illegal to sell if it contains more than a trace amount of Mevinolin. Herbal supplements are not regulated by the FDA.

Herbal supplements can play a vital role in enhancing or even prolonging a good quality of life, but precautions should be taken when combining these "herbs" with prescription medications. Some herbal and prescription combinations may pose greater risks than benefits.

When we take the opportunity to educate our patients on the risks and benefits, we provide a greater service that may benefit their overall health for years to come.