

Received October 1, 2008

From: Teri Youngdahl, R.D.A.

To: MDH staff

Re: Requested input regarding OHP Collaborative Management Agreement and the Registered Dental Assistant.

A Registered Dental Assistant under the current Collaborative Management Agreement is only allowed to do the duties that an unregulated dental assistant is able to perform. A non registered dental assistant is only allowed to chairside assist, suction, take down and set up a treatment room. At this time, a Registered Dental Assistant would not be allowed to do any expanded functions ie. Radiographs, prophylaxis, fluoride treatments, place temporary fillings, sealants, etc.

With our Expanded Functions, we could be of valuable assistance to an Oral Health Practitioner. A RDA, with experience in patient care, would need a Collaborative Agreement that would allow them to perform any of the current rules under general supervision.

The way the current law is written, a Registered Dental Assistant and an Oral Health Practitioner are unable to work together. RDA's would help with the access to care issue by providing additional auxiliary for the OHP. Working on young children and compromised adults can be very difficult with only one provider. Having a RDA, able to perform expanded functions, would be very beneficial in the access to care issue.

Working with the underserved public is challenging. We believe a RDA and OHP, working together, would be more efficient. They would likely be able to see more patients and be able to do more treatment at each appointment. An OHP may be seeing a parent or another family member, while a RDA would be able to see a child at the same time, for preventive care.

Current rules of the Board of Dentistry regulate a Restorative Functions Assistant. They are allowed to place fillings, do placement of preformed crowns, and place and finish composite restorations. A Registered Dental Assistant, Restorative Functions Assistant and an Oral Health Practitioner working together, would greatly help in serving the unmet underserved population.

During your review of the current rules for RDA's, consideration should be given to add more expanded functions. Adding specific duties such as, administering local anesthetic and supragingival scaling would benefit the delivery of care.