



S.B. 248

126th General Assembly
(As Introduced)

Sen. Armbruster

BILL SUMMARY

- Establishes a process for allowing a dental assistant to remove orthodontic adhesives, bands, and brackets.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

Background: regulation of the practice of dental assistants

(R.C. 4715.39; Ohio Administrative Code 4715-3-01(C)(8) and 4715-11-01)

Current law authorizes the State Dental Board to define the duties that may be performed by dental assistants and other qualified personnel. Under the Board's current rules, persons included in the "basic qualified personnel" category are permitted to perform basic remediable intra-oral and extra-oral dental tasks.¹ Persons in the "advanced qualified personnel" category, otherwise referred to as "expanded function dental auxiliaries," are permitted to also engage in the placement of sealants and restorative materials. Basic qualified personnel are not subject to examination requirements, but expanded function dental auxiliaries must pass a Board designated examination.

Qualified personnel must perform tasks under the direct supervision and full responsibility of a dentist. In the case of dental assistants practicing in the basic category, a dentist must have adjudged them to be capable and competent.

¹ O.A.C. 4715-11-01 provides a list of tasks and procedures that may be performed by basic qualified personnel. Among the tasks and procedures included in the list are (1) preparation of materials, drugs, and medications for use in dental procedures, (2) intra-oral instrument transfer, (3) taking specified dental impressions, (4) application of topical anesthetics, (5) fluoride application, (6) patient education services, and (7) all supportive services and procedures necessary to gather patient information and to protect the physical well-being of the patient during treatment procedures.

The assistants must have been trained by (1) an employer-dentist, (2) a planned sequence of instruction in an educational institution, or (3) in-office training. Certification by the private entities that certify dental assistants is not mandatory.

The performance of polishing activities by dental assistants is regulated separately from the performance of basic remediable dental tasks. To be authorized to polish the clinical crowns of teeth, a dental assistant must obtain a coronal polishing certificate from the Board by completing a training program and passing a standardized examination. The dental assistant must also hold certification from the Dental Assisting National Board or the Ohio Commission on Dental Assistant Certification.

Removal of orthodontic adhesives, bands, and brackets

(R.C. 4715.39)

The bill permits a dental assistant to perform the remediable² task of removing orthodontic adhesives, bands, and brackets from the supragingival crown of a tooth.³ The supragingival crown is the area of a tooth that appears above the line where the tooth meets the gum.⁴

² O.A.C. 4715-3-01(N) distinguishes "remediable" tasks and procedures from "irremediable" tasks and procedures by specifying that a task or procedure is "remediable" if it does not create irreparable changes within the oral cavity or contiguous structures when it is performed.

³ With regard to orthodontic devices, O.A.C. 4715-11-01 includes the following tasks and procedures that may be performed by basic qualified personnel: (1) preliminary selection and sizing of orthodontic bands and arch wires, (2) checking for and removal of loose orthodontic bands and loose brackets, (3) placement and removal of orthodontic arch wires, auxiliary arch wires, and ligation of the wires to orthodontic bands or brackets, (4) placement and removal of orthodontic separators and ties, (5) preparing the teeth for the bonding of orthodontic brackets by treating the supragingival coronal surfaces of the teeth to be bonded with a conditioning or etching agent and by the placement of a bonding agent adhesive, and (7) taking impressions for removable or fixed orthodontic appliances.

⁴ This explanation is based on definitions included in Laura Horvatich's Glossary of Dental Assisting Terms: The DANB Guide to Applied Practical & Clinical Dental Terminology, Dental Assisting National Board, Inc., 2002.

Performance standards

(R.C. 4715.39(C)(1) and (2))

The bill requires a dental assistant who removes orthodontic adhesives, bands, and brackets to perform the procedure under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. The procedure must be performed by using hand instruments designed to remove the adhesives, bands, and brackets. The dental assistant may not use rotary instruments to perform the procedure.

Training and examination

(R.C. 4715.39(C)(3) and (4))

For a dental assistant to be authorized to remove orthodontic adhesives, bands, and brackets, the assistant must meet the following requirements:

--Training: The dental assistant must satisfactorily complete at least three hours of didactic training in basic dental anatomy and at least three hours of preclinical training with a dentist licensed in Ohio. The assistant must submit documentation of the training authenticated by the dentist.

--Examination: The dental assistant must pass a standardized examination offered by the Board that demonstrates competency in performing the procedure.

Waiver

(R.C. 4715.39(G))

The bill authorizes the Board to waive the training and examination requirements that otherwise must be met by the dental assistant. The waiver provision applies in the case of a dental assistant who provides evidence satisfactory to the Board that the assistant is authorized in another state or country to remove orthodontic adhesives, bands, and brackets from the supragingival crown of a tooth.

Board certificate

(R.C. 4715.39(C)(5))

A dental assistant's authority to remove orthodontic adhesives, bands, and brackets is also dependent on receiving a certificate from the Board authorizing the assistant to engage in the procedure. The bill requires the Board to issue a certificate to the assistant if (1) the assistant has successfully completed the bill's training and examination requirements or (2) the assistant has the requirements

waived by the Board by providing satisfactory evidence of being authorized in another state or country to perform the procedure.

HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	01-10-06

S0248-I-126.doc/jc

