



July 28, 2008

Dear Dental Professional:

The Nebraska Board of Dentistry prepared the 172 NAC 53 draft regarding the scope of practice for dental assistants in Nebraska. The draft included these additional procedures for dental assistants:

- Pit and fissure sealants
- Placing and removing retraction cord
- Oral brush biopsy

The Nebraska Dental Association (NDA) and the Nebraska Dental Assistants Association (NDAA) initially were both in support of the draft regarding changes in the scope of practice for dental assistants in the State of Nebraska.

The draft did not obtain approval by the Nebraska Attorney General. A revised draft was resubmitted by the Board of Dentistry which only change was the removal of educational requirements for the additional procedures. This draft was then sent forth to the Nebraska Board of Health. The Nebraska Board of Health voted on May 19 to “table” the draft, awaiting the completion of the credentialing 407 process (see below).

On July 14, at the Nebraska Board of Health meeting a motion was made to “un-table” the revised 172 NAC 53 draft from the Board of Dentistry. This motion had no second, and it was terminated within the committee.

Due to the fact that no current scope of practice exists for dental assistants in Nebraska, NDAA proceeded with the 407 process. This is the credentialing process with the intent of legislative changes within dental assisting. Within the 407 process, we have proposed different levels of education, each with its specific list of duties and a grandfather clause to ensure current dental assisting employment. Please note the first level in this proposal (OJT) is an unlicensed category (see attachment).

The 407 process is well underway. Please review the proposal and show your support at the opening hearing on **August 15 at 1 p.m.**

- Public hearing
 - Nebraska State Office Building,
301 Centennial Mall South (located on 16th St., between L & M)
Lincoln, NE 68509

- Verbal testimony in support of the 407 process at the hearing
- Letter of support written by **August 6th** to:
Anne Owens, Administrative Assistant
Office of Research, Policy & Q.I.
DHHS, Division of Public Health NSOB – 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 95026
Lincoln, NE 68509-5026

NDAA believes that by instilling the knowledge in each dental assistant, we can provide optimal dental healthcare to every patient.

Sincerely,

Crystal Stuhr, CDA, BS
President NDAA