

Dental Auxiliary personnel

The concept of dental team is used to describe the providers of dental care, all of whom perform different roles and function. They undergo different training and work together to provide care to dental patients.

Dental auxiliary is a person who is gives responsibility by a dentist (generic term for all persons who is assist the dentist in patient management render dental care), the duties undertaken by dental auxiliaries range from simple task (sorting instrument) to complex procedure which form part of treatment of patients, they play an important role in the public dental health.

A dentist is a person licensed to practice dentistry under the law of the appropriate state, province, territory or nation. Dentists are concerned with the prevention and control of the diseases of the oral cavity. They are legally entitled (licensed and registered) to treat patients independently, prescribe certain drugs and to employ and supervise auxiliary personnel. **Dental auxiliary can help the dentist in providing dental care.**

World Health Organization (WHO) can classify dental auxiliary according to:

- a. The training they have received.
- b. The task they are expected to undertake.
- c. Legal restrictions placed upon them.

Classification:

1. **Non operating auxiliaries.** According to revised classification of non-operatory auxiliary are:

❖ **Dental surgery assistant:**

- a. Non- operatory auxiliary.
- b. Assist the dentist or dental hygienist in treating patients.
- c. Not permitted to treat patients independently.
- d. Also called dental nurse or chair side dental assistant.
- e. The duties of the dental assistant are

- Reception of the patient.
- Patient preparation for any dental treatment.
- Sterilization and preparation of instruments.
- Preparation and provision of all necessary facilities such as mouth washes and napkins.
- Care of patient after treatment.
- Preparation and mixing of restorative materials.
- Preparation of the surgery for the next patient.
- Assistant with x-ray work and the processing mounting of x- rays.
- Instruction of the patients where necessary in the correct use of the toothbrush.
- Aftercare of persons who have had general anesthesia.

❖ **Dental secretary/ receptions:** Non- operatory auxiliary who assist the dentist with his secretarial work and patient reception duties.

❖ **Dental laboratory technician:** also called dental mechanic a person who fulfills the perceptions provide by dentists regarding extra oral constriction and repair of oral appliance and bridge work(make and repairs dentures and dental appliances, casting of models from impression by dentist, fabrication of denture, splints, orthodontic appliances, inlay, crowns and special trays). Their work is mostly performed in commercial laboratories and not in the dental practice setting.

❖ **The dental health educator:** give instruction in the prevention of oral /dental diseases.

2. Operating auxiliary: A person who not being a professional is permitted to carry out certain treatment procedures in the mouth under the direction and supervision of a professional. According to revised classification of operatory auxiliary are:

- ❖ **The school dental nurse:** this a person who
 - a. Permitted to diagnose dental disease.
 - b. Plan and carry out certain specified preventive and treatment of dental caries and periodontal disease in a school children groups.

c. The duties of the school dental nurse are

- Oral examination.
- Prophylaxis and topical fluoride application.
- Advice on dietary and fluoride supplements.
- Administration of local anesthetic.
- Cavity preparation and placement of amalgam filling in primary and permanent teeth.
- Pulp capping.
- Extraction of primary teeth.
- Instruction of individual , classroom, teacher and parent about tooth brushing , oral hygiene and dental health education.
- Referral of patient to private practitioners for more complex services such as extraction of permanent teeth ,orthodontic treatment.

❖ **The dental therapist:** after training dental therapist for about of a period of 2 years is permitted to carry out certain specified preventive and treatment measures including cavity preparation and restoration of teeth under supervision of dentist. The duties of the dental therapist:

- Diagnosis of dental caries clinically.
- Cavity preparation of deciduous and permanent teeth.
- Material handling and restorative skills.
- Vital pulpatomy and extraction of deciduous teeth under local anesthesia.
- Taking radiograph under supervision of dentist.

❖ **The dental hygienist:** this is the person who licensed and registered to practice dental hygiene under the law of the appropriate state, proven, territory or nation. Dental hygienist work under supervision of dentists. The duties of the dental hygienist are

- ✓ Cleaning of mouths and teeth with particular attention to calculus and stain.

- ✓ Topical application of fluoride and sealants and other prophylactic solutions.
- ✓ Screening or preliminary examination of patients (school children) so that they may refer to the dentist for treatment.
- ✓ Oral hygiene instruction.
- ✓ Resource work in the dental health.

❖ **Expanded function dental auxiliary (EFDA):** they have been referred to expanded function dental assistant, hygienist, technologist. Mostly they are assistant and in some cases hygienist with additional training in duties related to the direct dental treatment of patients, though still working under supervision of a dentist.

❖ **EFDA performed the following operations:**

1. Placing and removing temporary fillings, rubber dam and matrix band.
2. Condensing and carving amalgam restoration in previously prepared teeth.
3. Placing of acrylic restoration in previously prepared teeth, EFDA do not prepare cavities or make decision, but work along side the dentist who examined and diagnosed the patient and performed treatment plan. EFDA helps him in four handed relationship.

Four handed relationship: the term is given on art of seating both the dentist and the dental assistant in such way that both are within easy reach of the patient's mouth. The patient is in a fully supine position, the assistant will hand the dentist, particular instrument he needs, in addition to retraction and aspiration. This will decrease the fatigue of dentist and increase efficiency.