



Australian Government

HLTDEN002 Assist with dental radiography

Release: 1

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Modification History

Release	Comments
Release 1	This version was released in <i>HLT Health Training Package release 3.0</i> and meets the requirements of the 2012 Standards for Training Packages. Minimal changes to the elements and performance criteria. New evidence requirements for assessment including volume and frequency requirements. Removal of pre-requisites Supersedes HLTDA304D

Application

This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required for a dental assistant to prepare patients for dental radiography. It also describes the skills and knowledge to process and mount conventional dental radiographs.

This unit applies to dental assisting work.

The skills in this unit must be applied in accordance with Commonwealth and State/Territory legislation, Australian/New Zealand Standards and industry codes of practice.

Elements and Performance Criteria

ELEMENT

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

Elements define the essential outcomes

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

1. Prepare for dental radiography

- 1.1 Position the patient comfortably
- 1.2 Reassure the patient and explain the procedure in language that is easily understood
- 1.3 Ask the patient to remove items that may interfere with the radiographic examination, and offer appropriate explanation
- 1.4 Ensure patient, other members of the dental team and the public are protected from ionising radiations
- 1.5 Assist the operator in the implementation of safe work practices to minimise radiation risks to workers and

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to patients during procedure

1.6 Select and prepare the correct radiographic film or image receptors and relevant holders for the radiographic examination, and make it available to the operator

2. Prepare equipment and materials for dental radiography

2.1 Maintain clean and dry working surfaces

2.2 Clean and maintain processing equipment in good working order

2.3 Maintain processing solutions at the correct strength and temperature

2.4 Record accurately the date of preparation of solutions

2.5 Arrange for servicing of instruments and equipment in line with manufacturers' instructions and Radiation Health Committee national policies, codes and standards

2.6 File equipment service records in a location within the surgery that can be readily accessed

2.7 Prepare program to receive image, correctly orientate and label radiograph and enter patient data

3. Process and mount dental radiographs

3.1 Protect processing facility and equipment against accidental intrusion of light

3.2 Wear personal protective equipment

3.3 Handle radiographic film packages or image receptors carefully so that their quality is maintained

3.4 Carry out processing stages in the correct sequence and for the appropriate duration in accordance with manufacturers' specifications

3.5 Identify common faults caused by incorrect processing and notify operator if these occur

3.6 Rectify processing faults in accordance with operator's instructions

3.7 Notify the operator of any processing faults that cannot be rectified prior to further radiographs being processed

3.8 Label, date and file the radiograph mounting

ELEMENT**PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

Elements define the essential outcomes

Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.

accurately and legibly

3.9 Mount and secure radiographs in correct anatomical position for viewing

4. Maintain stock of unexposed radiographic film and chemicals

4.1 Store radiographic film, image receptors and chemicals in accordance with manufacturers' specifications

4.2 Maintain sufficient stock

4.3 Rotate film stock so that film is used before its expiry date

5. Assure the quality of dental radiographic processing

5.1 Participate effectively in radiographic quality assurance programs

5.2 Monitor processing solutions for deterioration

5.3 Notify the operator when radiographs do not meet the quality criteria of the reference radiograph produced under optimum conditions

5.4 Collect and record all unacceptable radiographs that do not meet diagnostic standards due to processing error, and identify how processing can be improved

5.5 Dispose of waste chemicals safely in accordance with manufacturers' specifications and legislative requirements

5.6 Maintain and clean the imaging plate scanner according to organisation procedures

Foundation Skills

The Foundation Skills describe those required skills (language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills) that are essential to performance.

Foundation skills essential to performance are explicit in the performance criteria of this unit of competency.

Unit Mapping Information

No Equivalent Unit

Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

<https://vetnet.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=ced1390f-48d9-4ab0-bd50-b015e5485705>

Assessment Requirements for HLTDEN002 Assist with dental radiography

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Performance Evidence

The candidate must show evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the job role. There must be evidence that the candidate has:

- prepared at least 3 patients for dental radiographic imaging procedures
- consistently applied safe work practices for dental radiography work including:
 - using protective equipment to minimise the risk of ionising radiations to self and patient
 - correctly handling, storing and disposing of radiographic films and processing solutions receptors
- correctly processed, mounted and filed radiographic films and digital images on at least 3 occasions, including:
 - applying the correct processing procedure
 - implementing remedies for common processing faults
 - recognising common processing errors
 - handling digital receptors carefully
 - attaching accurate, legible and complete records

Knowledge Evidence

The candidate must be able to demonstrate essential knowledge required to effectively complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit, manage tasks and manage contingencies in the context of the work role. This include knowledge of:

- national and State/Territory legal and ethical requirements and considerations for dental assisting work and how these are applied in organisations and in individual practice including:
 - codes of practice and safety guides:
 - radiation protection in dentistry
 - safe use of radiation
 - duty of care
 - informed consent and statutory requirements of consent
 - practice standards – Dental Board of Australia guidelines on infection control
 - privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
 - radiation user licence
 - rights and responsibilities of workers, employers and patients
 - work role boundaries – responsibilities and limitations
 - work health and safety
- equipment and materials used for dental radiography and the correct procedures for use including:
 - equipment for automatic processing
 - equipment for manual processing
 - equipment for digital radiography
 - reasons for rotating film stock and using film before its expiry date
 - reasons for storing films away from ionising radiation
 - safe methods of storage and disposal of processing solutions
 - the nature and purpose of processing solutions
- production and biological effects of ionising radiation:
 - biological risks associated with X-rays
 - hazards associated with X-rays including the mechanisms by which X-rays cause damage to human tissues
 - nature and uses of X-rays
 - production of X-rays
- process for mounting films including:
 - fundamental knowledge of dental anatomy
 - methods of mounting radiographs
- process for processing films including:
 - procedures required for automatic film processing
 - procedures required for manual film processing
 - processing solutions and appropriate methods for their handling, preparation, replenishment, storage and safe disposal
 - reasons for light-tightness and use of safelights
 - requirements for clean working space and adequate ventilation
 - the automatic processing cycle
 - the stages of the manual processing cycle

- procedures required for digitally transferring images
- quality assurance of processing including:
 - criteria for determining whether a radiograph is of an acceptable quality
 - causes of common processing errors and the remedy for correction
- code of practice for radiation protection in dentistry including:
 - methods for monitoring the adequacy of radiation protection
 - procedures for minimising radiation risks to patients, self, the oral healthcare team and the public
 - the organisation's quality assurance policy for processing radiographs to consistent diagnostic quality
 - the purpose of quality assuring dental radiographs and its relationship to radiation protection
- role of radiographs in dentistry including:
 - benefits and risks of dental radiography
 - digital radiography, what it is, how it is used and its advantages and disadvantages over conventional film-based radiography
 - extraoral films and applications
 - intraoral film sizes and applications
 - use of radiographs in diagnosing and monitoring dental disease.

Assessment Conditions

Skills must have been demonstrated in the dental clinic workplace with the addition of simulations and scenarios where the full range of contexts and situations cannot be provided in the workplace. The following conditions must be met for this unit:

- use of suitable facilities, equipment and resources including:
 - barrier protection equipment and/or materials
 - dental chair and unit
 - radiographic machine
 - operator and assistant protective equipment
 - radiographs and/or sensors
 - waste disposal equipment suitable for radiographic solutions and films
 - Dental Board of Australia guidelines on infection control on which the candidate bases the planning process
- modelling of industry operating conditions including access to real people for simulations and scenarios in dental assisting work.

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) 2015/AQTF mandatory competency requirements for assessors.

In addition, assessors must hold a minimum of 5 years clinical experience in dental assisting work.

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