



**Australian Government**

# **HLTDEN016 Assist with dental radiography**

**Release: 2**

# HLTDEN016 Assist with dental radiography

## Modification History

| Release   | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Release 2 | Release 2 HLTDEN016 Assist with dental radiography supersedes and is equivalent to Release 1 HLTDEN016 Assist with dental radiography.<br><br>Updated:<br>Mapping details and minor corrections. |
| Release 1 | HLTDEN016 Assist with dental radiography supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTDEN002 Assist with dental radiography.                                                                           |

## Application

This unit of competency describes the performance outcomes, skills and knowledge required 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 under the instruction and supervision of the dental practitioner.

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

No occupational licensing, certification or specific legislative requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.

## Pre-requisite Unit

Nil

## Competency Field

Dental Assisting

## Unit Sector

Dental

## Elements and Performance Criteria

### ELEMENTS

*Elements describe the essential outcomes*

1. Prepare for dental radiography.
2. Process and mount dental radiographs for viewing.

### PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

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

- 1.1. Ensure work surfaces are clean and dry.
- 1.2. Select and prepare the correct radiographic image receptors, relevant holders and patient record for the radiographic examination and make it available to the practitioner.
- 1.3. Assist the practitioner in the implementation of safe work practices to minimise radiation risks to workers and to patients during procedure.
- 2.1. Wear personal protective equipment.
- 2.2. Handle image receptors carefully to maintain quality.
- 2.3. Process image as directed by practitioner.
- 2.4. Orientate or mount image in correct viewing perspective, identifying landmarks to confirm.
- 2.5. Ensure image is labelled, dated and attached to the appropriate patient record for storage or filing.
- 2.6. Check radiograph image meets diagnostic standards and notify operator of any defects.
- 2.7. Identify improvements in processing or mounting images to ensure quality criteria is met.

## Foundation Skills

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

## Unit Mapping Information

HLTDEN016 Assist with dental radiography supersedes and is not equivalent to HLTDEN002 Assist with dental radiography.

## 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 HLTDEN016 Assist with dental radiography

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## Performance Evidence

Evidence of the ability to complete tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit in the context of the job role, and:

- prepare for 3 dental radiographic imaging procedures.
- consistently apply safe work practices during above dental radiography work including:
  - positioning self and assist with positioning other people in a safe location during radiographic exposures
  - correctly handling and storing of radiographic image receptors
- correctly process, mount and file radiographic films or digital images on at least 3 occasions, including:
  - applying the correct processing procedure
  - handling image receptors carefully
  - attaching accurate, legible and complete records

## Knowledge Evidence

Demonstrated knowledge required to complete the tasks outlined in elements and performance criteria of this unit:

- national and State or 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
- duty of care
- informed consent and statutory requirements of consent
- current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) guidelines and practice standards
- privacy, confidentiality and disclosure
- radiation user licence
- rights and responsibilities of workers, employers and patients
- work role boundaries including 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
- equipment required for a range of dental radiographic image exposures, including:
  - intraoral radiographs including bitewing, periapical and occlusal images
  - intraoral receptor sizes and use
  - extraoral radiographs including orthopantomogram (OPG)
- 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
- equipment and processes required to process digital radiographic images, including:
  - digital receptor types
  - phosphor plate scanners
  - computing facilities and software
  - maintenance requirements
  - common handling errors
- equipment and processes required to process film based radiographic images, including:
  - chemical processing solutions
  - manual film processing
  - automatic film processing
  - quality requirements for film processing

- common film processing errors and causes
- requirements for handling, storing and disposing of chemicals and radiographic film
- process for orientating radiographic images including:
  - fundamental knowledge of dental anatomy
  - methods of mounting radiographs
- role of radiographs in dentistry including:
  - benefits and risks of dental radiography
  - use of radiographs in diagnosing and monitoring dental disease
- 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
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA) compliance requirements for radiographic equipment.

## Assessment Conditions

Skills must be demonstrated in a dental clinic workplace with the addition of simulations and scenarios where the full range of contexts and situations cannot be provided in the workplace.

Assessment must ensure:

- access to suitable facilities, equipment and resources including:
  - barrier protection equipment and materials
  - dental chair and unit
  - radiographic machine
  - practitioner and assistant protective equipment
  - radiographic image receptors
  - current Dental Board of Australia (DBA) and Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) guidelines and practice standards
- modelling of industry operating conditions including access to people for simulations and scenarios in dental assisting work

Assessors must satisfy the Standards for Registered Training Organisations' requirements for assessors and hold a minimum of five years clinical dental experience.

## Links

Companion Volume implementation guides are found in VETNet -

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