



# STATE OF IOWA

## IOWA DENTAL BOARD

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### **Important Notice Re: Dental Assistant Trainees**

#### **Certificate of Trainee Status Required *PRIOR* to Beginning Work as a Dental Assistant Trainee**

Effective Date: May 1, 2013

#### **What changes?**

- Effective on May 1, 2013 a dental assistant trainee must have a Certificate of Dental Assistant Trainee Status issued *prior to* beginning work as a dental assistant trainee.
- A dental assistant trainee must submit a completed Dental Assistant Trainee Application and have been issued a Certificate of Dental Assistant Trainee Status prior to the trainee's first date of employment as a dental assistant.
- A supervising dentist must ensure that a dental assistant has a valid Certificate of Dental Assistant Trainee Status prior to the first date of employment as a dental assistant trainee.

#### **Background**

In October, 2012 the Iowa Dental Board adopted final rule amendments that apply to dental assistant trainees. The Board rescinded the 7-day grace period in rule 20.6(1) "a" during which they must notify the Board of employment of a dental assistant. The Board noted that dentists and dental hygienists must have been issued an Iowa license prior to employment in their professions. The Board concluded that dental assistants should be treated similarly. In response to concerns raised during the comment period, the effective date of the rescission of the 7-day notice requirement was delayed until May 1, 2013. The concern was that a dentist might need a dental assistant to start on short notice due to absences, illness, or resignations of current staff.

A new online healthcare licensing database is anticipated to be available soon and provides for the filing of online applications. Provided the trainee meets eligibility requirements, an online application will be approved quickly. Until the online system is operational, a dental assistant must complete a paper Dental Assistant Trainee Application. Please contact the Iowa Dental Board office if you have an emergency situation that would require an expedited application review and certificate issuance.

#### **Rule excerpt:**

##### **20.6(1) Dental assistant trainee.**

a. On or after May 1, 2013, a dentist supervising a person performing dental assistant duties must ensure that the person has been issued a trainee status certificate from the board office prior to the person's first date of employment as a dental assistant. A dentist who has been granted a temporary permit to provide volunteer services for a qualifying event of limited duration pursuant to 650—subrule 13.3(3), or an Iowa-licensed dentist who is volunteering at such qualifying event, is exempt from this requirement for a dental assistant who is working under the dentist's supervision at the qualifying event.