



Are Your Assistants Certified?

By Dr. Richard C. Mariani Jr.

Whether you are practicing orthodontics as a general dentist or as an orthodontist, what is the significance of your assistants being certified?

Did you know that the Florida Statutes specify that if an assistant is not certified and he or she is performing tasks only allowable by a certified assistant, the dentist may be liable to having his or her license suspended for a minimum of six months? Statute 466.028, Grounds for Disciplinary Action, Action by the Board states:

1. The following acts constitutes to ground for denial of a license or disciplinary action, as specified in s.456.072 (2: The board may enter and order denying licensure or imposing any of the penalties in s.456.072).
(z) Delegate professional responsibilities to a person who is not qualified by training, experience, or licensure to perform them. There shall be a minimum six-month suspension of the license of a dentist who is convicted of a violation of paragraph (1)(z).
2. The board may enter and order denying licensing or imposing any of the penalties in s.456.072.

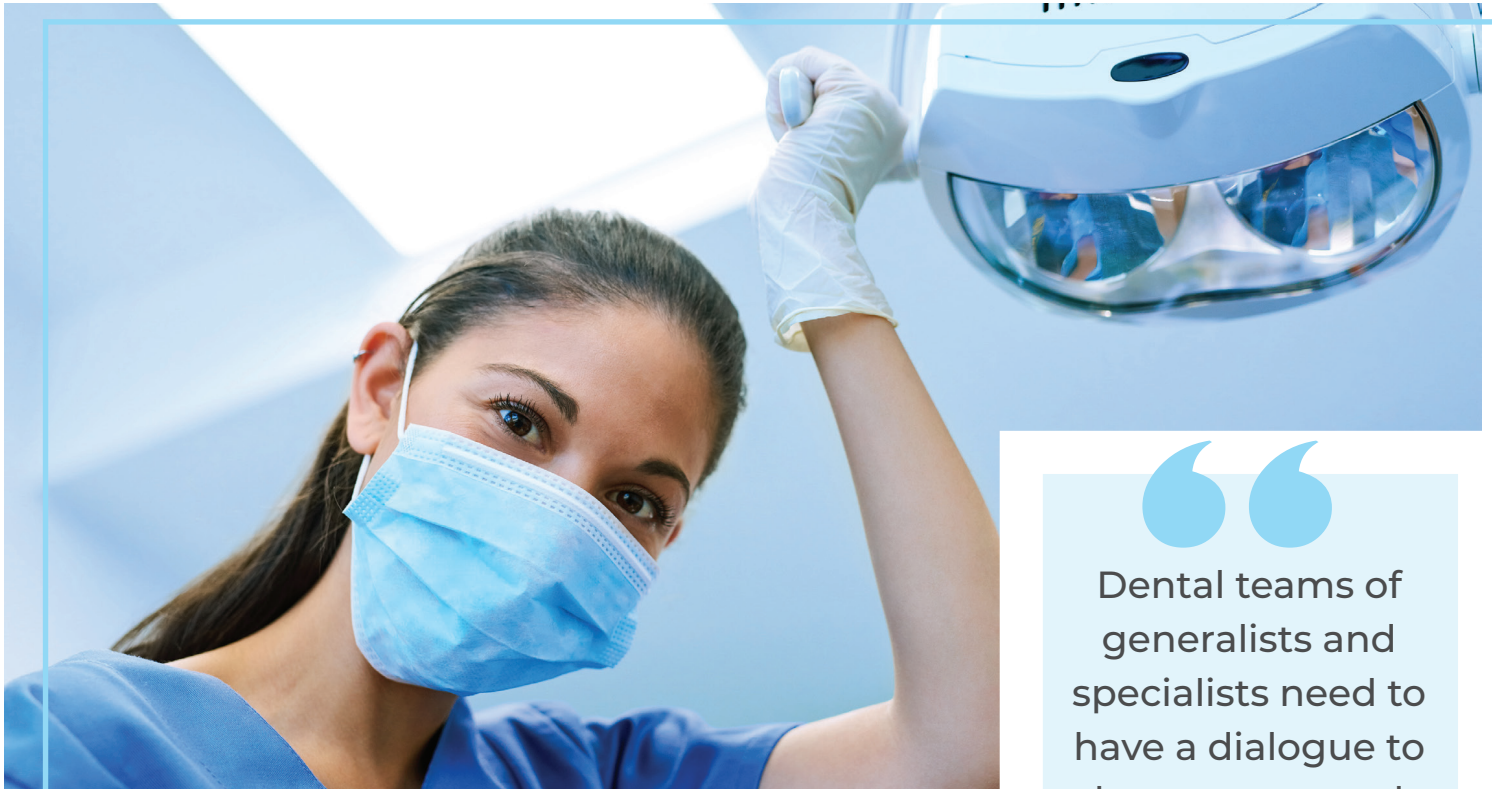
The Florida Association of Orthodontists (FAO) provides convenient access to the certifying process. The FAO certification test is given in 13 locations throughout the state every month of the year. Your assistant needs only six months of in-office training and experience to qualify to take the test. The fee is \$125 per applicant. 🌞

Dr. Mariani Jr. is the FAO Expanded Duties Committee chair.

Test Locations and Times

For more information regarding test locations and times, please visit the FAO website at faortho.org.

For any other questions or more information, please contact Dr. Richard Mariani Jr. at DOGRM@atlanticbb.net.



Are Your Assistants Certified? Part II

By Richard Mariani, DDS

Our previous article (*Today's FDA* Jan/Feb 2022, page 53) regarding Assistant Certification outlined the importance of knowing what tasks are allowable for Certified Orthodontic Assistants. This applies to the orthodontist as well as the general dentist practicing orthodontics. As stated in the Florida Statutes, knowing what tasks were allowable is essential in protecting your license from suspension. The following are some of the tasks which are **not** permitted by a Certified Orthodontic Assistant.

- Taking impressions for an active orthodontic appliance.
- Making a decision for treatment or treatment planning.
- Any use of the laser by anyone other than a dentist.
- Use of a high-speed or low-speed handpiece that could alter the contour of a tooth.
- Adapting or final fitting or contouring of an orthodontic band for treatment.
- Removing cement with a mechanical device, subgingival.

“Dental teams of generalists and specialists need to have a dialogue to keep connected through courses and study clubs in real time.”

- Initial cementing or recementing an active orthodontic appliance.
- Making tooth movement adjustments to archwires before placement without supervision or approval from a dentist.
- Final fitting of an extra-oral appliance.

Mandatory radiologic certification before taking any intra or extra oral x-ray images: As stated in our previous article, delegating professional responsibilities to a person who is not qualified by training, experience or licensure can result in a minimum of six months' suspension of the license of the dentist who is charged for committing a violation of the Florida Statutes s.456072.

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