



CITY OF HOUSTON

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Code: 706.1

Job Title: **DENTAL ASSISTANT**

Pay Grade: 9

GENERAL SUMMARY:

Provides basic assistance to the dentist and performs routine clerical work in a dental clinic.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assists dentist and/or dental hygienist with patient preparation and chairside treatment. May perform follow-up actions as directed by dentist.
- Sterilizes and maintains instruments and equipment.
- Takes, develops and mounts x-rays.
- Performs routine clerical duties, including answering phones, scheduling appointments, filing, ordering supplies and equipment.
- Assists in maintaining overall cleanliness of dental clinic.
- Performs other activities as directed by dentist.
- Provides preventive dental education and postoperative care to patients.
- May be required to work at more than one clinic location.

SPECIFICATIONS:

KNOWLEDGE:

Requires a high school diploma or GED certificate.

CERTIFICATION:

Must be licensed to practice as a Registered Dental Assistant by the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners.

EXPERIENCE:

No experience is required.

COMPLEXITY:

Work consists of routine standard procedures and tasks where simple analytical ability is required to select and execute actions.

IMPACT OF ACTIONS:

Errors in work typically lead to minor inconvenience and costs. Work is typically performed under close supervision of simple routine duties to ensure completion; or tasks are so highly routine that they may simply require following standardized instructions without continuous direct supervisory observation.

SPECIFICATIONS: (continued)

SUPERVISION EXERCISED:

Direct Supervision:

No direct report employees.

Indirect Supervision:

No indirect reports.

CONTACTS:

Internal Contacts:

Level of internal contact is primarily with professionals and supervisors. Interaction involves routine information exchange and/or simple service activity requiring common courtesy; e.g., answering questions, giving directions in response to simple requests.

External Contacts:

Level of external contact is primarily with citizens, visitors and/or mid-level representatives of government agencies, guests, vendors and professional contacts with allied organizations. Interaction involves routine information exchange and/or simple service activity requiring moderate tact and cooperation.

PHYSICAL EFFORT:

The position occasionally requires stooping or bending. Occasional very light lifting, such as three or four reams of papers or books (up to 20 pounds or an equivalent weight) may be required.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

There are occasional discomforts from exposures to moderate heat, cold, moisture/wetness and unpleasant air conditions. The position may involve occasional exposure to soiled materials and light chemical substances such as cleaning solutions.

PHYSICAL SKILL:

Requires the ability to make coordinated gross motor movements in response to changing external stimuli within moderately demanding tolerances; or the ability to make coordinated eye/hand movements on a patterned response space within low tolerance demands with no real speed requirements.

MISCELLANEOUS:

All duties and responsibilities may not be listed in the above job description.

JOB FAMILY:

Dental Assistant

Effective: October 1990

Revised: April 2008