Assisting and Attendance in Predoctoral Dental Student Clinics

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Effective 10/15/2020; Rev. 12/1/2020

SOD Assisting and Attendance in Predoctoral Dental Student Clinics

Purpose

The purpose of the revised policies and procedures for Assisting and Attendance in Predoctoral Dental Student Clinics is to improve efficiency, reduce the amount of time patients must spend in the dental chair at each visit, and minimize the risk of transmitting infectious disease.

Policy

1. All 3rd and 4th year (D3/D4) predoctoral dental students participating in direct patient care at the UCSF School of Dentistry are required to have an assistant present for the entirety of all aerosolizing dental procedures to provide four-handed dentistry and chairside high-volume suction. As a general guideline, any procedure which requires COVID-testing and confirmed negative results to be performed in the clinic will require an assistant at all times.

2. “Floater” Student Assistant

Floater (n.) – a non-treating dental student who provides chairside assistance to two or more treating dental students in the same Group Practice in the same session

If treating students performing a COE, POE, LOE, Diagnostic/Alginate Impressions, or Removable Prosthodontics procedures other than RPD rest seat preparation need a student to assist in their appointment to expedite the steps of the procedure and/or improve safety measures, one assisting student may act as a “floater” and provide assistance to two or more treating students in the same Group Practice in the same session, provided that none of those treating students are performing aerosolizing procedures which require COVID-testing during that session.

Failure to comply with the assisting policies will result in the student receiving a Professionalism Evaluation Report (PER) at a minimum, with possible suspension of clinic privileges and/or further consequences in the event of repeated infractions.

The following procedures REQUIRE an assistant at all times:

- Any procedure requiring use of a high-speed handpiece, air-water syringe, or ultrasonic scaling instrument
- Crown/inlay/onlay preparation
- Crown/inlay/onlay final impression
- Crown/inlay/onlay delivery
- Direct amalgam restoration
- Direct composite restoration
- Endodontic procedures: pulpotomy, pulpectomy, root canal treatment (RCT)
- Fabrication/replacement of provisional restoration
- Implant crown final impression
- Implant crown delivery
- Occlusal adjustment of tooth or restoration intraorally
- Removable Partial Denture (RPD) rest seat preparation
- Scaling/Root Planing using ultrasonic scaling instruments
- Sealant/preventive resin restoration (PRR)
- Simple extraction

The following procedures DO NOT REQUIRE an assistant to be performed in the clinic, but utilization of an assistant is highly encouraged to maximize safety and efficiency:

- All steps of Removable Prosthodontic procedures except RPD rest seat preparation
- Diagnostic/alginate impressions
- Facebow transfer
- Endodontic diagnostic testing
- Intraoral/extraoral photographs
- Nightguard delivery
- Oral exams
  - Comprehensive Oral Evaluation “COE” (D0150)
  - Limited Oral Exam-Prob Focused “LOE” (D0140)
  - Periodic Oral Evaluation “POE” (D0120)
  - Post-op Evaluation “Post-Op” (D0171)
- Periodontal Maintenance
  - Perio Maintenance “PMT” (D4910),
  - Limited Dentition Perio Maintenance “Limited PMT” (D4911)
- Preventive periodontal treatment
• Prophy – Adult 21+ “Prophy” (D1110)
• Prophy – Child < 21 “Child Prophy” (D1120)
• Radiographs
• Scaling/Root Planing (including Perio Scale 1-3 Teeth) using hand instruments only
  • Scaling/Root Planing by quad “SRP” (D4341)
  • Perio Scale 1-3 Teeth Quad “Limited SRP” (D4342)