

March 2, 2026

Re: Consultation on Orthodontic Advanced Practice Authorization for Dental Assistants

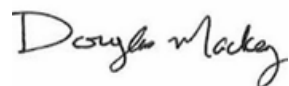
Dear registrants and other interested parties,

The May 1, 2025 change in legislation from the 1992 [Dental Act](#) to the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#) has permitted the NSRDDA to develop frameworks for authorizing advanced practice designations for dental assistants. This had not been possible under the [Dental Assistants Regulation](#) pursuant to the *Dental Act*.

On February 27, 2026 the NSRDDA Board approved a draft version of the *Authorization for Advanced Practice in Orthodontics for Dental Assistants* which is attached. Once finalized, this document will become Appendix G of the amended [Standard of Practice for Dental Assisting](#).

If you would like to provide feedback on this draft document, please send it via email to feedback@nsrdda.ca before April 2, 2026.

Sincerely,



Dr. Doug Mackey, DDS
Registrar, NSRDDA

Appendix G – Authorization for Advanced Practice in Orthodontics for Dental Assistants

1.0 Preamble

Section 28.1 of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (NSRDDA) [Bylaws](#) outlines the provisions for the recognition of advance practice and additional practice competencies. For further clarity, these are areas of practice and competencies which are not included in the entry-to-practice competencies for the profession.

2.0 Requirements for the Authorization for Advanced Practice in Orthodontics (“Authorization”)

2.1 Authorization will be granted to a dental assistant who:

2.1.1 completes an application form as approved by the Registrar,

2.1.2 pays any fees associated with the application as approved by the Board, and:

2.1.2.1 if applying for Authorization for the first time in Canada, satisfies the Registrar that they have successfully completed an orthodontic dental assisting program fulfilling the requirements outlined in the 2020 [Mutual Recognition Agreement for Purposes of Labour Mobility – Orthodontic Dental Assisting](#) (the “MRA”) signed by members of the Canadian Dental Assisting Regulatory Authorities (CDARA), or

2.1.2.2 if currently has or previously has had Authorization in Canada:

2.1.2.2.1 provides verification from another CDARA member organization that they have provided orthodontic services as outlined in Section 3.1 within the previous three (3) years, or

2.1.2.2.2 provides verification that they have completed an orthodontic dental assisting refresher course approved by the Registrar or another CDARA member organization within the previous twelve (12) months.

3.0 Competencies for Advanced Practice in Orthodontics (the “Competencies”)

3.1 Dental assistants with orthodontic Authorization are permitted to perform following services:

3.1.1 Placement and removal of orthodontic separators

- 3.1.2 Placement and removal of removable orthodontic appliances *
- 3.1.3 Selection, fitting and cementation of orthodontic bands *
- selection and fitting of orthodontic bands
 - preparation of teeth for cementation
 - cementation of orthodontic bands
 - removal of excess cement with hand instruments and slow speed rotary handpiece*
- 3.1.4 Placement and bonding of orthodontic brackets and bondable attachments *
- preparation of teeth for bonding of orthodontic brackets and bondable attachments
 - bonding orthodontic brackets and bondable attachments
 - removal of excess bonding agent with hand instruments and slow speed rotary handpiece
- 3.1.5 Insertion, ligation and removal of orthodontic arch wires *
- Using individual elastomeric ligatures, chain elastomeric ligatures, wire ligatures (separate and continuous) and self-ligating mechanisms
 - Trimming and or bending distal ends of orthodontic arch wires
- 3.1.6 Insertion and removal of orthodontic accessories *
- 3.1.7 Removal of orthodontic bands:
- With hand instruments
 - Removal of cement with hand instruments and slow speed rotary handpiece
- 3.1.8 Removal of orthodontic brackets and bondable attachments
- With hand instruments
 - Removal of cement with hand instruments and slow speed rotary handpiece
- 3.1.9 Application of non-medicinal material to reduce irritating orthodontic components

***Note: Services indicated with an asterisk (*) may be provided by a dental assistant only under the direct or indirect supervision of a dentist. The supervising dentist must perform:**

- **the final fitting, adjustment and/or activation of any appliance, and**
- **a final check of brackets, bands and attachments before the patient is dismissed.**