

2023 Domain Description - Reading Sections

For your NDAEB dental assisting written exam

According to the current Candidate Handbook, the Domain Description covers what you need to know to meet the standard of being admitted into the profession. Below, we've made a concerted effort to identify where exam topics align with sections in the current versions of textbooks, which are:

Three Textbooks are referenced on the NDAEB site:

1. *Modern Dental Assisting (MDA) - 13th Edition*
2. *Dental Assisting - A Comprehensive Approach (DA-CA) – 5th Edition*
3. *Clinical Practice of the Dental Hygienist (CP-DH) - 11th Edition*

The following domains are listed and referenced.

1. **Ethical and Legal Practice as a Dental Assistant (~5% of 200 item exam)**
(MDA) – Chapters 2 (The Professional Dental Assistant), 4 (Dental Ethics), 5 (Dentistry and the Law), 61 (Communication in the Dental Office) & 62 (Business Operating Systems); (DA-CA) – Chapters 2 (Psychology, Communication, and Multicultural Interaction) & 3 (Ethics, Jurisprudence, and the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act); **Plus** – *Canadian Dental Assisting Legal Scope of Practice by Province – 2016*, *Code of Ethics from Canadian Dental Assisting Association*, *PIPEDA (The Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act)*
2. **Dental Sciences (7% - 12% of 200 item exam)**
 - 2.1. **Oral Anatomy**
(MDA) – 11 (Overview of the Dentitions); (DA-CA) – 7 (Head and Neck Anatomy), 9 (Tooth Morphology); (CP-DH) – 12 (Extraoral and Intraoral Examinations).
 - 2.2. **Anatomy of the Head and Neck**
(MDA) – 9 (Head and Neck Anatomy), 10 (Landmarks of the Face and Oral Cavity); (DA-CA) – Chapters 6 (General Anatomy and Physiology); (CP-DH) – 18 (The Periodontium).
 - 2.3. **Tooth Development and Eruption**
(MDA) – Chapters 8 (Oral Embryology and Histology); (DA-CA) – 8 (Embryology and Histology); (CP-DH) – 16 (The Teeth).
 - 2.4. **Oral Pathology**
(MDA) – 17 (Oral Pathology); (DA-CA) – 27 (Oral Pathology); (CP-DH) – 12 (Extraoral and Intraoral Examinations).
 - 2.5. **Microbiology**
(MDA) – 19 (Disease Transmission and Infection Prevention); (DA-CA) – 10 (Microbiology), 11 (Infection Control); (CP-DH) – Chapters 4 (Infection Control: Transmissible Diseases).
 - 2.6. **Pharmacology**



(MDA) –30 (Principles of Pharmacology); (DA-CA) – 15 (Pharmacology)
(CP-DH) – 10 (Personal, Dental, and Medical Histories); **Plus** – *Recommended Antibiotic Prophylaxis for the Prevention of Infective Endocarditis and Hematogenous Total Joint Infection by CDHO.*

3. **Clinical Support Procedures** (10% - 15% of 200 item exam)

3.1 Principles of Asepsis and Infection Prevention

(MDA) – Chapters 19 (Disease Transmission and Infection Prevention), 20 (Principles and Techniques of Disinfection), 21 (Principles and Techniques of Instrument Processing and Sterilization), 23 (Chemical and Waste Management), 24 (Dental Unit Waterlines); (DA-CA) – Chapters 10 (Microbiology), 11 (Infection Control); 12 (Management of Hazardous Materials); (CP-DH) – Chapters 4 (Infection Control: Transmissible Diseases), 5 (Exposure Control: Barriers for Patient and Clinician); **Plus** – *WHMIS.org*

(MDA) – Chapters 33 (Delivering Dental Care), 34 (Dental Hand Instruments) & 35 (Dental Handpieces and Accessories); (DA-CA) – Chapters 17 (Introduction to the Dental Office ad Basic Chairside Assisting) & 19 (Instrument Transfer and Maintaining the Operating Field); (CP-DH) – Chapter 39 (Instrumentation and Principles for Instrumentation).

3.2 Team Ergonomics

(MDA) – Chapter 25 (Ergonomics); (DA-CA) – Chapter 17 (Introduction to the Dental Office ad Basic Chairside Assisting); (CP-DH) – Chapter 7 (Patient Reception and Ergonomic Practice).

4. **Patient Records** (10% - 12% of 200 item exam)

(MDA) – Chapters 5 (Dentistry and the Law), 15 (Preventive Dentistry), 26 (The Patient's Dental Record), 27 (Vital Signs), 28 (Oral Diagnosis and Treatment Planning), 29 (The Special Needs and Medically Compromised Patient), 38 (Foundations of Radiology, Radiographic Equipment, and Radiation Safety), 40 (Legal Issues, Quality Assurance, and Infection Prevention) & 47 (Laboratory Materials and Procedures); (DA-CA) – Chapters 3 (Ethics, Jurisprudence, and the Health Information Portability and Accountability Act), 4 (Oral Health and Preventive Techniques), 13 (Preparation for Patient Care), 14 (Dental Charting), 21 (Introduction to Dental Radiography and Equipment), 22 (Production and Evaluation of Dental Radiographs), 23 (Extraoral and Digital Radiography), 28 (Orthodontics) & 39 (Laboratory Materials and Techniques); (CP-DH) – Chapters 9 (Documentation for Dental Hygiene Care), 10 (Personal, Dental, and Medical Histories), 11 (Vital Signs), 12 (Extraoral and Intraoral Examination), 13 (Dental Radiographic Imaging), 14 (Study Models), 23 (Indices and Scoring Methods) & 25 (The Dental Hygiene Care Plan).

5. **Patient Care Procedures** (40% - 50% of 200 item exam)

5.1 Obtain and Record Vital Signs

(MDA) – Chapter 27 (Vital Signs); (DA-CA) – Chapters 13 (Preparation for Patient Care) & 16 (Emergency Management); (CP-DH) – Section IX, 11 (Vital Signs).



5.2 Collect Diagnostic Information

(MDA) – Chapter 28 (Oral Diagnosis and Treatment Planning); (DA-CA) – Chapter 13 (Preparation for Patient Care); (CP-DH) – Chapter 24 (Planning for Dental Hygiene Care).

5.3 Emergency Care

(MDA) – Chapter 31 (Assisting in Medical Emergency); (DA-CA) – Chapter 16 (Emergency Management); (CP-DH) – Chapter 8 (Emergency Care).

5.4 Management of Patients with Special Needs

(MDA) – Chapter 29 (The Special Needs and Medically Compromised Patient); (DA-CA) – Chapter 4 (Oral Health and Preventive Techniques).

5.5 Anesthesia and Pain Management

(MDA) – Chapter 37 (Anesthesia and Pain Control); (DA-CA) – Chapter 20 (Anesthesia and Sedation); (CP-DH) – Chapter 38 (Anxiety and Pain Control).

5.6 Moisture Control Techniques

(MDA) – Chapter 36 (Moisture Control); (DA-CA) – Chapters 19 (Instrument Transfer and Maintaining Operating Field) & 34 (Restorative Materials, Dental Dam, Matrix, and Wedges).

5.7 Operative Dentistry Procedures

(MDA) – Chapters 38 (Foundations of Radiography, Radiographic Equipment, and Radiation Safety), 39 (Digital Imaging, Dental Film, and Processing Radiographs), 40 (Legal Issues, Quality Assurance, and Infection Prevention), 41 (Intraoral Imaging), 42 (Extraoral Imaging), 43 (Restorative and Esthetic Dental Materials), 44 (Dental Liners, Bases, and Bonding Systems), 46 (Impressions Materials), 48 (General Dentistry), 49 (Matrix Systems for Restorative Dentistry); (DA-CA) – Chapters 17 (Introduction to the Dental Office and Basic Chairside Assisting), 19 (Instrument Transfer and Maintaining the Operating Field), 21 (Introduction to Dental Radiography and Equipment), 22 (Production and Evaluation of Dental Radiographs), 23 (Extraoral and Digital Radiography), 37 (Dental Cements, Bases, Liners, and Bonding Agents), 38 (Restorative Materials, Dental Dam, Matrix, and Wedge) & 39 (Laboratory Materials and Techniques); (CP-DH) – Chapters 13 (Dental Radiographic Imaging), 14 (Study Models), 46 (Tooth Bleaching).

5.8 Oral and Maxillofacial Surgical Procedures

(MDA) – Chapters 53 (Dental Implants), 56 (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery); (DA-CA) – Chapter 25 (Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery).

5.9 Endodontic Procedures

(MDA) – Chapter 54 (Endodontics); (DA-CA) – Chapter 24 (Endodontics).

5.10 Periodontic Procedures

(MDA) – Chapter 55 (Periodontics); (DA-CA) – Chapter 31 (Periodontics); (CP-DH) – Chapters 20 (Periodontal Examination), 41 (Nonsurgical Periodontal Therapy and Adjunctive Therapy).

5.11 Prosthodontic Procedures

(MDA) – Chapters 50 (Fixed Prosthodontics), 52 (Removable Prosthodontics); (DA-CA) – Chapters 33 (Fixed Prosthodontics and Gingival Retraction), 36 (Removable Prosthodontics); (CP-DH) – Chapter 32 (Care of Dental Prostheses).



5.12 Orthodontic Procedures

(MDA) – Chapter 60 (Orthodontics); (DA-CA) – Chapter 28 (Orthodontics); (CP-DH) – Chapters 31 (The Patient with Orthodontic Appliances) & 17 (The Occlusion).

6. Practice Management Procedures (5-10% of 200 item exam)

(MDA) – Chapters 62 (Business Operating Systems), 63 (Financial Management in the Dental Office); (DA-CA) – Chapter 40 (Dental Office Management); (CP-DH) – Chapter 9 (Documentation for Dental Hygiene Care).

7. Preventive Procedures (15-20% of 200 item exam)

7.1 Provide Oral Hygiene Instruction

(MDA) – Chapters 13 (Dental Caries), 14 (Periodontal Disease), 15 (Preventive Dentistry); (DA-CA) – Chapter 4 (Oral Health and Preventive Techniques); (CP-DH) – Chapters 19 (Periodontal Disease Development), 23 (Indices and Scoring Methods), 26 (Preventive Counseling and Behavior Change), 27 (Protocols for Prevention and Control of Dental Caries), 28 (Oral Infection Control: Toothbrushes and Toothbrushing), 29 (Oral Infection Control: Interdental Care), 30 (Dentifrices and Mouth rinses).

7.2 Provide Nutritional Counseling Relative to Oral Health

(MDA) – Chapter 16 (Nutrition); (DA-CA) – Chapter 5 (Nutrition); (CP-DH) – Chapter 35 (Diet and Dietary Analysis).

7.3 Perform Coronal Polishing

(MDA) – Chapter 58 (Coronal Polishing); (DA-CA) – Chapter 31 (Periodontics and Coronal Polish); (CP-DH) – Chapters 22 (Dental Stains and Discolorations) & 45 (Extrinsic Stain Removal).

7.4 Apply Anti-Cariogenic Agents

(MDA) – Chapter 15 (Preventive Dentistry); (DA-CA) – Chapter 4 (Oral Health and Preventive Techniques); (CP-DH) – Chapter 36 (Fluorides).

7.5 Apply Pit and Fissure Sealants

(MDA) – Chapter 59 (Dental Sealants); (DA-CA) – Chapter 29 (Pediatric Dentistry), Chapter 30 (Enamel Sealants); (CP-DH) – Chapter 37 (Sealants).

7.6 Apply Desensitizing Agents

(MDA) – Chapter 44 (Dental Liners, Bases, and Bonding Systems); (CP-DH) – Chapter 44 (Dentin Hypersensitivity).

7.7 Perform Vital Tooth Whitening

(MDA) – Chapter 48 (General Dentistry); (DA-CA) – Chapter 35 (Cosmetic Dentistry and Teeth Whitening); (CP-DH) – Chapter 46 (Tooth Bleaching).

