This special section provides information on the MDA Expanded Function Dental Assistant program. It strives to bring awareness to the launch of the MDA Restorative II curriculum, as well as answer some frequently asked questions. For questions about the MDA EFDA Program, contact Mandy Lewis at the MDA, or visit www.MOEFDA.org, where you can find detailed information and register for courses.

EXPANDED FUNCTION PERMITS // Functions delegable to a dental assistant possessing a Board-issued permit to perform expanded functions are divided into five categories: Restorative I, Restorative II, Removable Prosthodontics, Fixed Prosthodontics and Orthodontics. The list below is from the Missouri Dental Board General Rules, Chapter 2. You may access these from www.modental.org/practiceact or www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/20csr/202110-2.pdf (the Expanded Functions Rule begins on page 10; this list is on page 11). Each MDA Expanded Functions curriculum provides didactic and clinical training in these skills.

Restorative I
- Sizing and cementing of prefabricated crowns;
- Placing, condensing, and carving amalgam for Class I, V and VI restorations;
- Placing composite for Class I, V and VI restorations;
- Minor palliative care of dental emergencies (place sedative filling)

Restorative II
- Sizing and cementing of prefabricated crowns;
- Placing, condensing, carving and finishing amalgam for Class I, II, III, IV, V and VI restorations;
- Placing and finishing composite for Class I, II, III, IV, V and VI restorations;
- Minor palliative care of dental emergencies (place sedative filling)

Orthodontics
- Preliminary bending of archwire;
- Removal of orthodontic bands and bonds;
- Final cementation of any permanent appliance or prosthesis;
- Making impressions for the fabrication of any removable or fixed prosthesis/appliance;
- Placement and cementation of orthodontic brackets and/or bands

Prosthodontics (Fixed)
- Place retraction cord in preparation for fixed prosthodontic impressions;
- Extra-oral adjustments of fixed prosthesis;
- Extra-oral adjustments of removable prosthesis during and after insertion;
- Final cementation of any permanent appliance or prosthesis;
- Making impressions for the fabrication of any removable or fixed prosthesis/appliance

Prosthodontics (Removable)
- Placement of temporary soft liners in a removable prosthesis;
- Extra-oral adjustments of removable prosthesis during and after insertion;
- Minor palliative care of dental emergencies (place sedative filling);
- Making impressions for the fabrication of any removable or fixed prosthesis/appliance

Expanded Function courses, whether provided by the MDA or by CODA-accredited dental assisting programs, must provide teaching on the skills listed for each of the five categories. Five total courses are offered according to the category.

Beginning February 28, 2013, a change affecting the Missouri dental assisting rule (specifically Expanded Functions) went into effect. Two significant aspects of the rule change affecting the EFDA program were 1) the passing of Restorative II (allowing properly trained and permitted) EFDA to place and carve all classes of amalgam and composite restorations; and, 2) making mandatory that assistants who have been certified in any expanded functions now have to receive a permit from the Dental Board in order to be delegated expanded functions procedures. In addition to completing the application and paying the $10 fee (per permit), the expanded function assistant will be required to submit a copy of their course completion certificate (for each course). Once assistants have the Board-issued expanded functions permit, it must be displayed in plain view in any facility where the dental assistant will be providing expanded functions prior to delegation of expanded functions to that dental assistant. Every expanded functions permit issued by the Board shall be renewed every five years. In order to renew an expanded functions permit, the dental assistant must complete 16 hours of CE and must have BLS certification, which can count toward this total. Go to www.modental.org/efda_regulations to find information about the permit process and links to download the Dental Board forms necessary to complete to obtain your EFDA permit(s).
Preparation = Success

Missouri rule states that to be eligible to take Expanded Function courses, assistants must have proof of certification as a Certified Dental Assistant or a Certified Orthodontics Assistant from the Dental Assisting National Board or proof of passing of the Missouri Test of Basic Dental Assisting Skills. For the Restorative II Course, the MDA requires assistants have a Restorative I Permit, issued by the Missouri Dental Board, in order to register.

While these prerequisites are required, there are other things that dentists and assistants can do to help ensure success at the course, and to ensure the assistant is better prepared to begin being delegated Expanded Functions safely, efficiently and effectively.

ON THE JOB EXPERIENCE
As a best practice, the MDA recommends assistants considering EFDA have at least one to two years on-the-job training. EFDA training begins with understanding the terminology of the dental profession. Words are the key to how effectively we relate to one another professionally, and the best preparation and coaching involves bringing the EFDA candidates (and new EFDA graduates) fully into the conversation of the ideals of the delegated procedures and how their product either meets or falls short of those ideals.

MODERN DENTAL ASSISTING TEXT
Modern Dental Assisting (11th edition) is the official text recommended by the MDA EFDA Program. Using an easy-to-understand approach, this resource offers a complete foundation in the basic and advanced clinical skills you must master to achieve clinical competency. It describes dental assisting procedures with photographs and clear, step-by-step instructions. Assistants desiring to enroll in MDA EFDA courses should own a personal copy or have a dental office copy to access for additional information related to course curriculum. Where applicable throughout the curriculum, Modern Dental Assisting references will be noted. The MDA offers a discounted price on the eBook version, so that we may provide EFDA students with this excellent resource to assist in study for the course preparation and to accompany their life-long learning in the dental profession.

DENTISTS HELPING ASSISTANTS
As the supervising doctor for an EFDA candidate, you play an important role of engaging with your assistants as they progress through the online learning process and, for some courses, in coaching them through pre-clinical exercises, such as restoring preps for Restorative courses and fabricating custom trays for Removable Prosthetics.

Supervising dentists should begin their participation at or before enrolling the staff member into the EFDA program. As a best practice, the MDA suggests that dentists familiarize themselves with the EFDA courses (and your student’s online review materials).

Review the course outline and the skills taught. Have your assistant observe these procedures in practice and ask questions. Review the Skills Standards Evaluation for the course modules. These are the skills that will be graded in the EFDA clinical course. We encourage doctors and assistants to discuss these skills to ensure both feel confident about the assistant’s readiness for the EFDA course.

WHAT TO EXPECT FROM NEW EFDAS
Expanded function dental assistant training is designed to bring participants to pre-clinical competence in performing dental procedures. Through the courses, assistants will be practicing skills on models, with their performance evaluated accordingly. Upon completion of the training, assistants will be minimally competent in performing expanded function skills, and must demonstrate the ability in practice to successfully perform these same procedures on patients, under the supervision of their dentist.

EFDA training gives assistants the “basics” of the procedures that they will be performing. A doctor shouldn’t expect that the assistant will come back ready for full speed the first day. In fact, EFDAs aren’t allowed to legally perform the functions they have just been certified on until they receive their permit from the Missouri Dental Board. Doctors must realize that the main part of the EFDA training will be in their offices after the course. Take your time; explain to your assistants why they do each step that they are doing. A good idea for the first several patients for each procedure is to act as an assistant to the new EFDA.

Be a positive coach during the learning process. Speak your vision for the future team functioning, and indicate your confidence in the skills of your new EFDA. Positive coaching enrolls the team and patients in welcoming the advancement in provision of care.
Restorative II: Striving for Excellence

by ED KENDRICK, DDS

During clinical assignment at Truman East during my junior year of dental school, selected students were introduced to the Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) rung on the dental career ladder. We were to experience “team dentistry,” as this model was said to be how we would be practicing dentistry. I learned that assistants—with training—are capable of producing excellent restorations.

Some of you who trained under Dr. David L. Moore at UMKC will recall his commitment to EFDA skills. Dr. Moore met with those assistants regularly for about one semester to help develop their skills ... and it worked extremely well for most of the assistants. One of those EFDA candidates through the Restorative II course and delegation was a mentor throughout the pre-clinical, online didactic and further clinical exercises. In preparing the Restorative II curriculum recently received approval from the Missouri Dental Board. The resulting Restorative II curriculum was introduced to the Expanded Function Dental Assistant (EFDA) Program. Select candidates who: completed typodonts, the pre-clinical, online didactic session, dentist-employers are expected to participate actively in their own offices in preparing the Restorative II EFDA candidates through typodont exercises and in being a mentor throughout the pre-clinical, online didactic course. Completed typodonts, owned by the practice/assistant, are to be brought to the local practices before the clinical session for evaluation and further clinical exercises.

To those dentists who intend to promote their employee assistants through the Restorative II course and delegation (and all EFDA courses, for that matter), I advise that you know absolutely that your EFDA candidate has the “right stuff” to complete the curriculum. Select candidates who:

- Hold high standards in the quality of services delivered to patients.
- Have good manual dexterity, excellent eyesight and excellent eye-hand coordination (working while using the intra-oral mirror).
- Have a chairside mannerism conducive to establishing trust with patients in their clinical competence.
- Have a commitment to continued learning.
- Recognize and readily admit to their limitations.

One member of the committee counsels “If doctors will just remind themselves how long it took them in operative lab to become proficient and comfortable, and be willing to ensure their assistants feel the same before they perform work, it will equate to success for their assistants.”

The Restorative II course is comprehensive and cannot be completed in a short weekend.

Weeks before the clinical session, dentist-employers are expected to participate actively in their own offices in preparing the Restorative II EFDA candidates through typodont exercises and being a mentor throughout the pre-clinical, online didactic course. Completed typodonts, owned by the practice/assistant, are to be brought to the clinical session for evaluation and further clinical exercises.

Additionally, Modern Dental Assisting is the official textbook recommended by the MDA EFDA Program. Assistants desiring to enroll in MDA EFDA courses should own a personal copy or have a dental office copy to access for additional information related to course curriculum. I personally just purchased this updated eBook edition and highly recommend it as a practice management and training resource. The MDA has negotiated a special price and it can be ordered through MOEFDA.org.

A “board exam” will occur on the second day of the clinical session, with grading and results performed in the days following. EFDA candidates will receive their certificate only upon passing the typodont exercise—much like we dentists had a clinical board examination and waited for results. This certificate must then be presented for a permit from the Missouri Dental Board before actual delegation can occur.

We, as a committee, expect there will be failures—especially if candidate selection for taking the course is not carefully made and candidates fail to gain proficiency in their typodont practice at their local practices before the clinical course and examination process. It is incumbent upon employer dentists to participate as “local trainers” in assuring successful completion of the Restorative II course.

Let’s hope we, as a collective dental profession, take this opportunity very seriously, pick the right assistants, work very hard at the continuing training and, always, strive for excellence.
We get tons of questions at the MDA about being an EFDA in Missouri!

Some of the most common include:

- Do I have to have an EFDA permit to work as a dental assistant?
- If I am certified in another state as an EFDA, can I perform expanded functions in Missouri?
- I am a Registered Dental Assistant … Can I take EFDA courses?
- I graduated from a Missouri dental assisting program, but still can't be delegated expanded functions. Why?
- Can Expanded Function dental assistants apply sealants?
- I have lost my EFDA certificate. Can I get another one?

Find the answers to these and more at www.modental.org/efda_faq.