

Preparing an Examination Tray

Objective/Rationale

The dental assistant must be able to prepare the oral examination instrument tray and seat the patient before the operator can examine the teeth. The student will properly prepare an examination tray.

TEKS 121.4 7D, 9A, 9B, 10B, 13A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17B
121.5 2A, 3F, 6A

TAKS ELA 1

Key Points

1. Each operator may have a preference for set up of the examining tray. Be prepared to set the tray as the operator in that situation prefers.
2. Teeth are examined and cleaned during this examination.
3. Instruments are set in the order used.
4. The instruments will be returned to the original position on the tray after use. This practice makes it easier for the operator and assistant to find the instruments and makes the examination more efficient.
5. All hand pieces must be checked for function before the patient is seated.
6. Radiographs may be made. If these are scheduled, film must be ready for the operator to use.
7. In addition to the instruments on the tray, personal protective equipment (PPE) must be available for patients and the operator and assistant.
8. Part of setting up for the examination includes seating the patient, providing bib and drape, and having records and x-rays accessible.
9. After use, instruments will be sterilized and placed in clean section and disposables will be placed in bio-hazard container.
10. Gloves are worn while working at the chair. Proper handwashing techniques must be employed before gloving and after removing gloves.

Activities

- I. Prepare a tray for examination.
- II. Seat the patient so the operator can begin.

Materials/Resources

Diversified Health Occupations Sixth Edition by Louise Simmers. Delmar Thompson Learning. 2004.

Delmar's Dental Assisting A Comprehensive Approach by Donna J. Phinney and Judy H. Halstead. Delmar Thompson Learning 2000.

Assessment

HOSA Dental Assisting competition guidelines – <http://www.hosa.org>

Accommodations

For reinforcement, the student will use pictures of instruments to create a paper tray using cut outs.

For enrichment, the student will visit a dental office to shadow dental technician.