



MDA Radiography Training Program FAQs

What is the new MDA Radiography Training Program?

It is a nine-module, online training program combining interactive study with in-office practical radiography testing.

How does the new program work?

The assistant's dentist will serve as the Supervising Dentist for the training. The Supervising Dentist must first create an online account and complete a short tutorial on how to administer the radiography training to receive their Supervising Dentist ID code. Once received, the dentist can purchase course vouchers to distribute to the assistant(s) who will be taking the radiography training.

Dental assistants will then create their own account during the sign-up process, input the Supervising Dentist ID code provided them by their dentist. This code "links" the assistant to the Supervising Dentist, allowing the dentist to track the assistant's progress through a management dashboard.

In larger practices that employ a practice manager, he/she can create an account and manage the dentists and assistants through the certification process. **NOTE: Dentists and assistants must still first create accounts before they can be managed.** Practice managers can assign assistants to a dentist in the practice, move the assistant to a different dentist, and remove the assistant from the program.

Finally, dentists will supervise the assistant performing two acceptable full-mouth series of images (including four bitewings) with a maximum of five retakes. Dentists will then print a certificate of completion from their management dashboard once an assistant successfully passes the training.

How much does it cost to purchase the MDA Radiography Training Program?

MDA members may purchase the program for \$265 per assistant, which is affordably priced compared to in-classroom courses. The nonmember price is \$365. The online system will automatically identify MDA members and assign the member price.

Can an assistant buy his/her own course voucher?

No Only dentists can purchase course vouchers. It's up to the Supervising Dentist whether the assistant reimburses the practice for the cost of the training.

How long will my assistant have to complete the program?

We encourage dental assistants to complete the training program within six months of enrollment.

Who is responsible for the assistant's training?

The Supervising Dentist is legally responsible for the training of the dental assistant.

How closely does the dentist have to supervise when the assistant is taking the radiographs?

The Supervising Dentist must be in the same room watching the assistant the entire time radiographs are being taken and must evaluate the assistant's technique. The assistant is not legally allowed to take radiographs under general supervision until the assistant receives a certificate saying that the radiography training course has been successfully completed.

Can someone other than the dentist train the assistant?

The dentist may have a registered dental assistant or registered dental hygienist assist with parts of the training, however, the dentist MUST supervise the assistant taking the radiographs and final exam.

Is there an age requirement for taking the training?

Yes. Michigan Department of Radiological Health regulations prohibit a minor from operating radiation equipment. Therefore, anyone under the age of 18 cannot be trained using the MDA Radiography Training Program.

Does the new radiography training program cover digital X-rays?

Yes, digital X-rays are included in the training, as well as panoramic and cephalometric. If you are an orthodontic office, in order to complete the program and be considered trained according to state law, ALL assistants must demonstrate the ability to take the requested radiographs. ALL assistants must complete two full-mouth series with bitewings. If you do not have the equipment to take them, you must make arrangements with a local general dentist to use their equipment for this purpose.

What if my office only has digital X-ray equipment?

In order to complete the program and be considered trained according to state law, ALL assistants must demonstrate the ability to take the requested radiographs. ALL assistants must complete two full-mouth series with bitewings. If you do not have the equipment to take them, you must make arrangements with a local general dentist to use their equipment for this purpose.

My assistant left the practice before completing the training. Can I transfer the course voucher to another assistant?

Yes. The Supervising Dentist has the ability to remove an assistant from the training program. Once removed, that assistant's voucher is automatically added back to your unused voucher library and can be used to train a new assistant.

Can course vouchers be refunded?

Yes. The Supervising Dentist has the ability to request a refund of purchased but unused course vouchers. Supervising Dentists must contact the Michigan Dental Association at 800-589-2632 to request the refund. Or you can email the MDA's Dave Lutz at dlutz@michigandental.org with the request.

What score is necessary to pass the final exam?

An assistant must record a score of 80% or better to pass the final exam.

What happens if my assistant fails the exam? Can my assistant just retake the test?

Yes. An assistant has unlimited tries to pass the exam. However, if the assistant continues to fail the exam, the doctor has the option to remove the assistant from the program, recoup the voucher, and assign it to a different assistant.

What happens if my assistant loses the Certificate of Completion?

As the Supervising Dentist, you have the ability to print off a new certificate from your account for you to sign and give to the assistant.

In addition, the dental assistant has the ability to print off an unsigned copy of the certificate the states his/her completion date of the training.

I purchased materials for the previous MDA Radiography Training Program. Can I still use them?

Yes. If you previously purchased materials and your assistant has not yet taken or completed the written exam, he/she may still complete the program. However, no future sales of materials for the previous training program will be made.