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.

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 $235 per assistant, which is affordably priced compared to in-classroom courses. The nonmember price is $335. The online system will automatically identify MDA members and assign the member price.

Can an assistant buy 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?

Assistants will have a maximum of 12 months to complete the training program.
**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 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.

**Can course vouchers be transferred to another assistant?**

Yes. The Supervising Dentist has the ability to transfer a purchased course voucher to another assistant in situations where the original assistant has left the practice and no portion of the training has been completed. Supervising Dentists must contact AHEConnect at 336-832-7570 to request the transfer or email Lauren.honeycutt@conehealth.com.

**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 AHEConnect at 336-832-7570 to request the refund or email Lauren.honeycutt@conehealth.com.
What happens if my assistant fails the exam? Can my assistant just retake the test?

Yes. An assistant has three tries to pass the exam. However, if the assistant fails in the final attempt, he/she will be blocked from accessing the course. If the Supervising Dentist wishes to purchase another voucher for the assistant, he/she would need to contact AHEConnect to delete the assistant’s record allowing him/her to re-register.

What happens if my assistant loses her Certificate of Completion?

As the Supervising Dentist, you have the ability to print off a new certificate from your account.

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.