

## **Roving Dental Assistant—A Value-Added Position**

The Roving Dental Assistant may amusingly be described by the phrase, “All things to all people.” The Rover is the “traffic director”, acutely aware of the schedule to keep the patient flow moving smoothly. She/he is the extra pair of hands so often needed to assure the efficient delivery of top-quality patient care. This auxiliary position may be filled by one team member or rotated weekly among chairside assistants.

- Maintain patient flow and awareness of the order in which the dentist is to see patients. Be the extra set of hands wherever necessary.
- Greet patients and escort them from the reception room, marking their arrival on that day’s schedule.
- Seat patient, place napkin, and chat for a moment to put the patient at ease.
- Take x-rays if necessary when chairside assistant is busy elsewhere.
- Prepare and place treatment trays.
- Assist the dentist when four-handed or even six-handed dentistry becomes necessary. This is sometimes particularly appropriate in pediatric dental offices.
- Assist the hygienist when needed.
- Help the patient from the chair, retrieving glasses, purse, etc. when the assistant or hygienist has to move on, and escort the patient to the desk for checkout.
- Be prepared to answer patients’ questions; seek advice if unsure of a correct answer.
- Clean units after patient dismissal and prepare the unit for the next patient.
- Clean/sterilize instruments.
- Do lab work if trained.
- Re-stock units, Clean and tidy the operatory and lab at the end of the day.
- Turn off suction, water, lights, etc. at day’s end.
- Maintain inventory of supplies, medicaments, etc. from which units are stocked. Inform the person who orders supplies when an item runs low.