

**CHAPTER 20-01-02**  
**DEFINITIONS**

Section  
20-01-02-01                      Definitions

**20-01-02-01. Definitions.** Unless specifically stated otherwise, the following definitions are applicable throughout this title:

1. "Anxiolysis" means diminution or elimination of anxiety.
2. "Basic full upper and lower denture" means replacement of all natural dentition with artificial teeth. This replacement includes satisfactory tissue adaptation, satisfactory function, and satisfactory aesthetics. Materials used in these replacements must be nonirritating in character and meet all the standards set by the national institute of health and the bureau of standards and testing agencies of the American dental association for materials to be used in or in contact with the human body.
3. "Board certified" means the dentist has been certified in a specialty area in which there is a certifying body approved by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association.
4. "Board eligible" means the dentist has successfully completed a duly accredited training program or in the case of a dentist in practice at the time of the adoption of these rules has experience equivalent to such a training program in an area of dental practice in which there is a certifying body approved by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association.
5. "Certified dental assistant" means a dental assistant who meets the education or experience prerequisites, or both, established by the dental assisting national board and passes the dental assisting national board's certified dental assistant examination (including radiation health and safety, infection control, and general chairside components), is currently cardiopulmonary resuscitation-certified, and continues to maintain the credential by meeting the dental assisting national board requirements.
6. "Combination inhalation - enteral conscious sedation" (combined conscious sedation) means conscious sedation using inhalation and enteral agents.

When the intent is anxiolysis only, and the appropriate dosage of agents is administered, then the definition of enteral or combined inhalation-enteral conscious sedation (combined conscious sedation), or both, does not apply.

Nitrous oxide/oxygen when used in combination or with sedative agents may produce anxiolysis, conscious or deep sedation, or general anesthesia.

7. "Complete evaluation" means an examination, review of medical and dental history, the formulation of a diagnosis, and the establishment of a written treatment plan, documented in a written record to be maintained in the dentist's office or other treatment facility or institution.
8. "Conscious sedation" means depressed level of consciousness that retains the patient's ability to independently and continuously maintain an airway and respond appropriately to physical stimulation or verbal command and that is produced by a pharmacological or nonpharmacological method or a combination thereof. The drugs or technique, or both, should carry a margin of safety wide enough to render unintended loss of consciousness unlikely. Patients whose only response is reflex withdrawal from repeated painful stimuli would not be considered to be in a state of conscious sedation.
9. "Coronal polishing" is the mechanical polishing of clinical crowns using a rubber cup or brush only and not to include any instrumentation. Examination for calculus and instrumentation must be done by the dentist or hygienist.
10. "Deep sedation" is an induced state of depressed consciousness accompanied by partial loss of protective reflexes, including the inability to continually maintain an airway independently or to respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command, and is produced by pharmacological or nonpharmacological method, or combination thereof.
11. "Dental assistant" means a person who under the direct supervision of a dentist renders assistance to a dentist or dental hygienist as described in article 20-03.
12. "Dental hygienist" means any person who is a graduate of a school of dental hygiene with a minimum of two academic years of dental hygiene curriculum approved or provisionally approved by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association and who is registered and licensed by the North Dakota board of dental examiners.
13. "Dental technician" means any individual who offers or undertakes to perform the fabrication or repair of corrective or prosthetic dental devices according to the written instructions of a licensed dentist. A certified dental technician is an individual who is specifically qualified through education and experience and who has successfully completed the written and practical certification examinations administered by the national board for certification, and who further maintains certification

through compliance with continuing education requirements as stipulated by the national board for certification.

14. "Direct supervision" means the dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, personally diagnoses the condition to be treated, personally authorizes the procedures and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the dental hygienist or dental assistant, and before dismissal of the patient, evaluates the performance of the dental hygienist or dental assistant.
15. "Evaluation" means the act or process by a dentist of assessing and determining the significance, quality or work of something such as the patient's oral health status, the progress of dental therapy, or the performance of the dental hygienist or dental assistant.
16. "General anesthesia" means an induced state of unconsciousness accompanied by a partial or complete loss of protective reflexes, including the inability to continually maintain an airway independently and respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal command, and is produced by a pharmacological or nonpharmacological method, or a combination thereof.
17. "General supervision" means the dentist has authorized the procedures and they are carried out in accordance with the dentist's diagnosis and treatment plan. The dentist is not required to be in the treatment facility. Limitations are contained in North Dakota Century Code section 43-20-03.
18. "Inactive status" means the licensee shall not engage in the practice of dentistry or dental hygiene in the state of North Dakota. The license that is placed on inactive status remains on that status until such time as the license is reinstated.
19. "Indirect supervision" means that a dentist is in the dental office or treatment facility, has personally diagnosed the condition to be treated, authorizes the procedures, and remains in the dental office or treatment facility while the procedures are being performed by the dental hygienist or dental assistant.
20. "Local anesthesia" means the elimination of sensations in one part of the body by regional injection of drugs without causing the loss of consciousness.
21. "Modified general supervision" means that the dentist must personally evaluate the patient, diagnose the conditions to be treated, and plan and authorize treatment. The dentist must personally evaluate the patient at each visit, but need not be present when treatment is initiated or remain until procedures are completed on a patient of record who has been seen in the office in the previous twelve months.

22. "Oral hygiene treatment planning" means the process of assessing and determining, by the dentist and the hygienist, the services the dental hygienist will perform, including preventative, educational, and instrumentation. This treatment plan is an organized sequence of events that is a part of the dentist's total treatment plan. The total treatment plan and diagnosis are to be determined by the dentist.
23. "Patient of record" means a patient who has undergone a complete dental evaluation performed by a licensed dentist.
24. "Personal supervision" means a level of supervision indicating that the dentist or dental hygienist is personally treating a patient and authorizes the dental hygienist or dental assistant to aid the treatment by concurrently performing a supportive procedure.
25. "Primary practice site" means the office location that is to be considered the main location of the dental practice. This office location would be listed first on the biennial registration.
26. "Qualified dental assistant" means a dental assistant who has received on-the-job training or instruction totaling at least six hundred fifty hours, has completed a board-approved infection control seminar and passed the x-ray and infection control portions of the dental assisting national board examination, and has applied to the board and paid the certificate fee determined by the board.
27. "Registered dental assistant" means a dental assistant who is a graduate of a dental assistant program approved or provisionally approved by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association, or who has received at least three thousand two hundred hours of dental assisting instruction including on-the-job training as a dental assistant and has completed dental assistant national boards, or who has completed a course in dental assisting which is approved by the North Dakota board of dental examiners, and who is registered by the North Dakota board of dental examiners.
28. "Satellite office" means an office, building, or location used at any time by a dentist for the practice of dentistry other than the office listed on the dentist's biennial registration certificate.

**History:** Effective September 1, 1980; amended effective February 1, 1992; October 1, 1993; May 1, 1996; August 1, 1998; April 1, 2000; June 1, 2002; July 1, 2004; April 1, 2006; October 1, 2007.

**General Authority:** NDCC 43-28-06

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 43-20-02, 43-20-12, 43-28-06