

## ARTICLE 20-03

### DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Chapter  
20-03-01          Duties

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Section  
20-03-01-01          Duties  
20-03-01-02          Prohibited Services  
20-03-01-03          Annual Registration of Dental Assistants Performing  
Expanded Duties  
20-03-01-04          Criteria for Dental Assistants Placing Sealants

**20-03-01-01. Duties.** A dental assistant may perform the services listed in subsections 1 through 6 under direct supervision of a licensed dentist. A registered dental assistant may perform the duties set forth in subsections 1 through 24 under direct or indirect supervision of a licensed dentist; a registered dental assistant may perform duties set forth in subsections 25 through 30 under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist and duties set forth in subsections 31 and 32 under the general supervision of a licensed dentist. A qualified dental assistant may perform the duties set out in subsections 1 through 7 under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.

1. Take and record pulse, blood pressure, and temperature.
2. Take and record preliminary dental and medical history for the interpretation by the dentist.
3. Apply topical medications and drugs to oral tissues, including topical anesthetic, but not including desensitizing or caustic agents or anticariogenic agents.
4. Receive removable dental prosthesis for cleaning or repair.
5. Take impressions for study casts.
6. Hold impression trays in the mouth (e.g., reversible hydrocolloids, rubber base).
7. Take dental radiographs.
8. Apply anticariogenic agents topically.
9. Apply desensitizing solutions to the external surfaces of the teeth.

10. Dry root canal with paper points.
11. Place and remove rubber dams.
12. Take occlusal bite registration for study casts.
13. Place retraction cord in the gingival sulcus of a prepared tooth prior to the dentist taking an impression of the tooth.
14. Remove excess cement from inlays, crowns, bridges, and orthodontic appliances with hand instruments only.
15. Perform nonsurgical clinical and laboratory oral diagnosis tests, including pulp testing, for interpretation by the dentist.
16. Apply pit and fissure sealants if criteria set out in section 20-03-01-04 of these rules are met. Adjust sealants with slow-speed handpiece.
17. Polish the coronal surfaces of the teeth with a rubber cup or brush only after necessary scaling by a hygienist or dentist.
18. Polish restorations.
19. Place and remove periodontal dressings, dry socket medications, and packing.
20. Remove sutures.
21. Monitor a patient who has been inducted by a dentist into nitrous-oxide relative analgesia.
22. Take impressions for fixed or removable orthodontic appliances, athletic mouth guards, bleaching trays, bite splints, flippers, and removable prosthetic repairs.
23. Preselect and prefit orthodontic bands.
24. Place, tie, and remove ligature wires and elastic ties, and place orthodontic separators.
25. Place and remove arch wires or appliances that have been activated by a dentist.
26. Acid-etch enamel surfaces prior to direct bonding of orthodontic brackets or composite restorations.
27. Place orthodontic brackets using an indirect bonding technique by seating the transfer tray loaded with brackets previously positioned in the dental laboratory by a licensed dentist.

28. Take face bow transfers.
29. Place and remove matrix bands and wedges.
30. Adjust permanent crowns outside of the mouth.
31. Fabricate, adjust, place, recement, or remove a temporary crown, bridge, or onlay or temporary restorative material. This applies only to dentitions actively under treatment for which a permanent restoration is being fabricated.
32. Cut and remove arch wires or replace loose bands, loose brackets, or other orthodontic appliances for palliative treatment.

**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.

**General Authority:** NDCC 43-20-10

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 43-20-12

**20-03-01-02. Prohibited services.** A dental assistant may not perform the following services:

1. Diagnosis and treatment planning.
2. Surgery on hard or soft tissue.
3. Administering of local or general anesthetics.
4. Any irreversible dental procedure or procedures which require the professional judgment and skill of a licensed dentist.
5. Placing a final restoration.
6. Contouring a final restoration, excluding a crown which has not been cemented by a dentist.
7. Activating any type of orthodontic appliance.
8. Cementing or bonding orthodontic bands or brackets that have not been previously placed by a dentist.
9. Placing bases or cavity liners.
10. Scaling, root planing, or gingival curettage.

11. Measuring the gingival sulcus with a periodontal probe.

**History:** Effective February 1, 1992; amended effective October 1, 1993; April 1, 2000; June 1, 2002; July 1, 2004.

**General Authority:** NDCC 43-20-10

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 43-20-12

**20-03-01-03. Annual registration of dental assistants performing expanded duties.**

1. Any individual engaged in performing expanded duties in the practice of dental assisting in the state of North Dakota (those duties set out in subsections 7 through 32 of section 20-03-01-01) must register with the board of dental examiners by submitting an application accompanied by a fee determined by the board. Thereafter, on a yearly basis, before expiration, every dental assistant performing expanded duties shall transmit to the board a registration fee determined by the board and evidence of completion of continuing education requirements, together with other pertinent information as required. At least thirty days before the certificate of registration expiration date, the executive director of the board shall send to every dental assistant performing expanded duties a written notice stating the amount and due date of the fee. A late fee determined by the board shall be assessed if the registration renewal application and fee are not received by the board before expiration.
2. An initial certificate of registration may be issued by the board to a dental assistant when:
  - a. The dental assistant has applied to the board and paid the registration fee determined by the board; and
  - b. The dental assistant possesses one of the following professional qualifications:
    - (1) The dental assistant is currently dental assistant certified by the dental assisting national board and has received at least three thousand two hundred hours of dental assisting instruction, including on-the-job training;
    - (2) The dental assistant has completed a course in dental assisting from a school of dental assisting accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association; or
    - (3) The dental assistant has completed a course in dental assisting which is approved by the North Dakota board of dental examiners.

3. Every registered dental assistant performing expanded duties shall provide the board a current mailing address. A registered dental assistant may not practice in this state for more than thirty days after a change of address without providing the board with written notice of the new address by first-class mail.
4. Each year registered dental assistants performing expanded duties shall submit to the board with the annual registration evidence of attendance or participation in continuing dental education acceptable to the board. To remain in good standing, a registered dental assistant performing expanded duties must complete at least eight hours of continuing education each year. The board shall suspend the registration of any person who fails to comply with this section.
5. An initial certificate of qualification to take dental radiographs (allows subsections 1 through 7 in section 20-03-01-01) may be issued by the board to a dental assistant when:
  - a. The dental assistant has applied to the board and paid the certificate fee determined by the board.
  - b. The dental assistant has received six hundred fifty hours of dental assisting instruction, including on-the-job training, and been employed and trained as a dental assistant for at least six months working at least twenty-four hours per week.
  - c. The dental assistant has completed a board-approved infection control seminar and passed the x-ray and infection control portions of the dental assisting national board examination.
6. A dental assistant who is not registered or qualified may, at the direction of a licensed dentist, perform only basic dental assisting services listed in subsections 1 through 6 of section 20-03-01-01.
7. Current certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and infection control shall be required for registration of all dental assistants.

**History:** Effective October 1, 1993; amended effective May 1, 1996; July 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 43-28-06

**20-03-01-04. Criteria for dental assistants placing sealants.** A dental assistant may place sealants, if the dental assistant is currently registered with

the North Dakota board of dental examiners and has provided documentation of a board-approved sealant course.

**History:** Effective June 1, 2002; amended effective April 1, 2006; October 1, 2007.

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

**Law Implemented:** NDCC 43-28-06