

ARTICLE 20-03

DENTAL ASSISTANTS

Chapter
20-03-01 Duties

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20-03-01-01. Duties. A dental assistant may perform the duties listed in subsections 1 through 6 under direct supervision of a dentist. A qualified dental assistant may perform duties set forth in subsections 1 through 7 under direct supervision of a dentist. A registered dental assistant may perform the duties set forth in subsections 1 through 24 under indirect supervision of a dentist. A registered dental assistant may perform duties set forth in subsections 25 through 31 under direct supervision of a dentist. A registered dental assistant may perform duties set forth in subsections 32 and 33 under general supervision of a 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 the registered dental assistant has provided documentation of a board-approved sealant course. 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. Orally transmit a prescription that has been authorized by the supervising dentist.
32. 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.
33. 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; January 1, 2011.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-01.1, 43-20-08, 43-20-10, 43-20-13

20-03-01-02. Prohibited services. A dental assistant, qualified dental assistant, or registered dental assistant may not perform the following services:

1. Diagnosis and treatment planning.
2. Surgery on hard or soft tissue.
3. Administer or titrate local anesthetics, sedation or general anesthesia drugs.
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; January 1, 2011.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-01.1, 43-20-08, 43-20-10, 43-20-13

20-03-01-03. Annual registration of dental assistants performing expanded duties. Repealed effective January 1, 2011.

20-03-01-04. Criteria for dental assistants placing sealants. Repealed effective January 1, 2011.

20-03-01-05. Registration of registered and qualified dental assistants. An individual seeking registration as a registered or qualified dental assistant shall apply on forms prescribed by the board. The application must be notarized and include the application fee.

1. The board may grant registration as a registered dental assistant to an applicant meeting all the following requirements:
 - a. The applicant meets any of the following requirements:
 - (1) The applicant successfully completed a dental assisting program, accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association or approved by the board, within one year of application.
 - (2) The applicant was certified by the dental assisting national board within one year of application.
 - (3) The applicant successfully completed a dental assisting program, accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association or approved by the board, and completed, within two years before application, sixteen hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-03-01-06.
 - (4) The applicant was certified by the dental assisting national board, and completed, within two years before application, sixteen hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-03-01-06.

- b. The applicant passed a written examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry in North Dakota within one year of application.
 - c. The applicant successfully completed a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course within two years of application.
 - d. Grounds for denial of the application under North Dakota Century Code section 43-20-05 do not exist.
2. The board may grant registration as a qualified dental assistant to an applicant meeting all the following requirements:
- a. The applicant meets any of the following requirements:
 - (1) The applicant passed the infection control and radiation parts of the dental assisting national board examination within one year of application.
 - (2) The applicant passed the infection control and radiation parts of the dental assisting national board examination and completed, within two years before application, sixteen hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-03-01-06.
 - b. The applicant completed six hundred fifty hours of dental assistance instruction, including on-the-job training.
 - c. The applicant passed a written examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry in North Dakota within one year of application.
 - d. The applicant successfully completed a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course within two years of application.
 - e. Grounds for denial of the application under North Dakota Century Code section 43-20-05 do not exist.

History: Effective January 1, 2011.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-13.2

20-03-01-06. Continuing dental education for qualified and registered dental assistants. Each qualified or registered dental assistant shall provide evidence on forms supplied by the board that the qualified or registered dental assistant has attended or participated in continuing dental education in accordance with the following conditions:

1. Continuing education activities include publications, seminars, symposiums, lectures, college courses, and online education.
2. The continuing dental education hours will accumulate on the basis of one hour of credit for each hour spent in education. Subject matter directly related to clinical dentistry will be accepted by the board without limit.
3. The minimum number of hours required within a two-year cycle is sixteen. Of these hours, a qualified or registered dental assistant may earn no more than eight hours from publications and online education. The continuing education must include:
 - a. Two hours of ethics or jurisprudence. Passing the laws and rules examination is the equivalent of two hours of ethics or jurisprudence.
 - b. Two hours of infection control.
 - c. A cardiopulmonary resuscitation course.
4. Mere registration at a dental convention without specific attendance at continuing education presentations will not be creditable toward the continuing dental education requirement.
5. All qualified or registered dental assistants must hold a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate.

History: Effective January 1, 2011.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-13.1