

ARTICLE 20-04 DENTAL HYGIENISTS

Chapter
20-04-01 Duties

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20-04-01-01. Duties.

A dental hygienist may perform the following services under the general, direct, direct visual, indirect, or contiguous supervision of a dentist:

1. Complete prophylaxis to include removal of accumulated matter, deposits, accretions, or stains from the natural and restored surfaces of exposed teeth. The dental hygienist may also do root planing and soft tissue curettage upon direct order of the dentist.
2. Polish and smooth existing restorations with a slow-speed handpiece.
3. Apply topical applications of drugs to the surface tissues of the mouth and to exposed surfaces of the teeth, including anticariogenic agents and desensitizing solutions.
4. Take impressions for study casts.
5. Take and record preliminary medical and dental histories for the interpretation by the dentist.
6. Take and record pulse, blood pressure, and temperature.
7. Provide oral hygiene treatment planning after an oral assessment or dentist's diagnosis.
8. Take dental radiographs.
9. Apply therapeutic agents subgingivally for the treatment of periodontal disease.
10. Hold impression trays in the mouth after placement by a dentist (e.g., reversible hydrocolloids, rubber base, etc.).
11. Receive removable dental prosthesis for cleaning and repair.
12. Dry root canal with paper points.
13. Place and remove rubber dams.
14. Place and remove matrix bands or wedges.

15. Take occlusal bite registration for study casts.
16. Place retraction cord in the gingival sulcus of a prepared tooth prior to the dentist taking an impression of the tooth.
17. Fabricate, adjust, place, recement, or remove a temporary crown, bridge, onlay, or temporary restorative material. This applies only to dentitions actively under treatment for which a permanent restoration is being fabricated.
18. Adjust permanent crowns outside of the mouth.
19. Perform nonsurgical clinical and laboratory oral diagnostic tests for interpretation by the dentist.
20. Apply pit and fissure sealants. Adjust sealants with slow speed handpiece.
21. Place and remove periodontal dressings, dry socket medications, and packing.
22. Remove sutures.
23. Monitor a patient who has been inducted by a dentist into nitrous-oxide relative analgesia.
24. Take impressions for fixed or removable orthodontic appliances, athletic mouth guards, bleaching trays, bite splints, flippers, and removable prosthetic repairs.
25. Preselect and prefit orthodontic bands.
26. Place, tie, and remove ligature wires and elastic ties, and place orthodontic separators.
27. Place and remove arch wires or appliances that have been activated by a dentist.
28. Cut and remove arch wires or replace loose bands, loose brackets, or other orthodontic appliances for palliative treatment.
29. Acid-etch enamel surfaces prior to pit and fissure sealants, direct bonding of orthodontic brackets, or composite restorations.
30. Place orthodontic brackets using an indirect bonding technique by seating the transfer tray loaded with brackets previously positioned in the dental laboratory by a dentist.
31. Take face bow transfers.
32. Orally transmit a prescription that has been authorized by the supervising dentist.
33. Repack dry socket medication and packing for palliative treatment.
34. Administer emergency medications to a patient in order to assist the dentist.
35. A dental hygienist authorized by permit and under contiguous supervision of a dentist authorized by permit to provide parenteral sedation may:
 - a. Initiate and discontinue an intravenous line for a patient being prepared to receive intravenous medications, sedation or general anesthesia.
 - b. Adjust the rate of intravenous fluids infusion only to maintain or keep the line patent or open.
 - c. Prepare anesthesia equipment and perform patient monitoring.

- d. Assist with emergency treatment and protocols.
36. A dental hygienist authorized by permit and under direct visual supervision of a dentist authorized by permit to provide parenteral sedation may:
- a. Draw up and prepare medications;
 - b. Follow instructions to deliver medication into an intravenous line upon verbal command of the supervising dentist;
 - c. Adjust the rate of intravenous fluids infusion beyond a keep-open rate upon verbal command of the supervising dentist; and
 - d. Adjust an electronic device to provide medications, such as an infusion pump upon the verbal command of the supervising dentist.
37. A dental hygienist under the direct supervision of a dentist may:
- a. Place, carve, and adjust class I, II, and class V amalgam or glass ionomer restorations with hand instruments or a slow-speed handpiece;
 - b. Adapt and cement stainless steel crowns; and
 - c. Place, contour, and adjust class I, II, and class V composite restorations where the margins are entirely within the enamel with hand instruments or a slow-speed handpiece.

History: Effective September 1, 1980; amended effective February 1, 1992; October 1, 1993; May 1, 1996; August 1, 1998; April 1, 2000; July 1, 2004; April 1, 2006; January 1, 2011; April 1, 2015; July 1, 2017.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-03, 43-20-11, 43-20-12

20-04-01-02. Prohibited services.

A dental hygienist may not perform the following services:

1. Diagnosis and treatment planning.
2. Surgery on hard or soft tissue.
3. Administer anesthetics, except topical and local anesthetic, as permitted under sections 20-04-01-01 and 20-04-01-03, or titrate local anesthetics, sedation or general anesthesia drugs without a board authorized permit.
4. Any irreversible dental procedure or procedures which require the professional judgment and skill of a dentist.
5. Adjust a crown which has not been cemented by a dentist.
6. Activate any type of orthodontic appliance.
7. Cement or bond orthodontic bands or brackets that have not been previously placed by a dentist.
8. Place bases or cavity liners.
9. Use a high-speed handpiece inside the mouth.

History: Effective February 1, 1992; amended effective October 1, 1993; July 1, 2004; January 1, 2011; April 1, 2015.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-03; 43-20-11, 43-20-12, 43-20-12.3

20-04-01-03. Duties of dental hygienists.

A dental hygienist may perform the following services under the direct supervision of a dentist:

1. A licensed dental hygienist may apply for a permit to administer local anesthesia to a patient who is at least eighteen years old, under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist. To be considered for a permit, a hygienist must have successfully completed a didactic and clinical course in local anesthesia within the last twenty-four months sponsored by a dental or dental hygiene program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association resulting in the dental hygienist becoming clinically competent in the administration of local anesthesia.
2. A licensed dental hygienist applying for a local anesthesia permit who has been permitted to administer local anesthesia and who has continuously administered local anesthesia during the past three years must provide verification of the permit and continuous use to the North Dakota board of dental examiners. Verification may consist of:
 - a. A letter from the accredited school with the school seal affixed. Photocopies will not be accepted.
 - b. A notarized copy of the certification of the local anesthesia course completed.
 - c. A notarized letter stating that the licensed dental hygienist has administered local anesthesia within the last three years.
 - d. A notarized copy of the dental hygiene transcript with the local anesthesia course recorded.
3. A licensed dental hygienist requesting a permit to administer anesthesia who cannot provide verification as required in subsection 2 must retake and successfully pass a didactic and clinical course in local anesthesia sponsored by a dental or dental hygiene program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association.

History: Effective July 1, 2004.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-03

20-04-01-03.1. Duties of the dental hygienist requiring a permit.

The board may issue or renew a permit to a dental hygienist for the following:

1. The board may issue or renew a class I dental anesthesia assistant permit authorizing a dental hygienist to provide anesthesia assistance under the supervision of a dentist authorized by permit to provide parenteral sedation, upon successful completion of the following:
 - a. The applicant submits evidence of a board-approved dental anesthesia assistant education and training course.
 - b. The applicant submits proof of current certification status from the American association of oral and maxillofacial surgeons dental anesthesia assistant national certification, or a board-approved competency examination;

- c. The applicant holds current and valid certification for health care provider basic life support, or advanced cardiac life support or pediatric advanced life support; and
 - d. The applicant provides a copy of a valid North Dakota general anesthesia or parenteral permit of the dentist where the registered dental hygienist will be performing anesthesia assistant services.
 2. The board may issue or renew a class II dental anesthesia assistant permit authorizing a registered dental hygienist to provide anesthesia assistance under the supervision of a dentist authorized by permit to provide parenteral sedation, upon successful completion of the following:
 - a. The applicant submits evidence of a board-approved dental anesthesia assistant education and training course and has proof of current certification status from the American association of oral and maxillofacial surgeons dental anesthesia assistant national certification or a board-approved competency examination;
 - b. The applicant has successfully completed hands-on training in intravenous access or phlebotomy that includes live experience starting and maintaining intravenous lines;
 - c. The applicant holds current and valid certification for health care provider basic life support, or advanced cardiac life support or pediatric advanced life support; and
 - d. The applicant provides a copy of a valid North Dakota general anesthesia or parenteral sedation permit of the dentist where the registered dental hygienist will be performing anesthesia assistant services.
 3. The board may issue or renew a permit on forms prescribed by the board authorizing a registered dental hygienist under the direct supervision of a dentist to provide restorative functions under the following conditions:
 - a. The applicant meets any of the following requirements:
 - (1) The applicant has successfully completed a board-approved curriculum from a program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association or other board-approved course and successfully passed the western regional examining board's restorative examination or other equivalent examinations approved by the board within the last five years. The board may require successful completion of the restorative function component of the dental assisting national board's certified restorative functions dental assistant certification examination; or
 - (2) The applicant has successfully passed the western regional examining board's restorative examination or other board-approved examination over five years from the date of application and successfully completed the restorative function component of the dental assisting national board's certified restorative functions dental assistant certification examination or other board-approved examination and provided evidence from another state or jurisdiction where the applicant legally is or was authorized to perform restorative functions and certification from the supervising dentist of successful completion of at least twenty-five restorative procedures within the immediate five years before the date of application.
 - b. A dental hygienist may perform the placement and finishing of direct alloy or direct composite restorations, under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist, after the supervising dentist has prepared the dentition for restoration.

- c. The restorative functions shall only be performed after the patient has given informed consent for the placement of the restoration by a restorative functions dental hygienist.
- d. Before the patient is released, the final restorations shall be checked and documented by the supervising dentist.

History: Effective April 1, 2015; amended effective July 1, 2017.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-03

20-04-01-04. Additional requirements for licensure by examination.

The board may grant a license to practice dental hygiene to an applicant who has met the requirements of North Dakota Century Code section 43-20-01.2 and all the following requirements:

- 1. The applicant has passed the examination administered by the joint commission on national dental examinations or the dental hygiene certification board of Canada within five years of application.
- 2. The applicant has passed, within five years of application, a clinical competency examination administered by one of the following:
 - a. Any regional dental testing service before September 17, 2009.
 - b. Central regional dental testing service.
 - c. Council of interstate testing agencies.
 - d. Western regional examining board.
 - e. American board of dental examiners.
- 3. The applicant has successfully completed a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course within two years of application.
- 4. The applicant has the physical health and visual acuity to enable the applicant to meet the minimum standards of professional competence.

History: Effective January 1, 2011; amended effective April 1, 2021.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-01.2

20-04-01-04.1. Clinical competency examination retakes.

A dental hygiene applicant may take a clinical examination three times before remedial training is required. After failing the examination for a third time, and prior to the fourth attempt of the examination, an applicant shall:

- 1. Submit to the board a detailed plan for remedial training by an accredited dental hygiene school. The board must approve the proposed remedial training.
- 2. Submit proof to the board of passing the remedial training within twenty-four months of its approval by the board. The board may grant or deny a fourth attempt of the clinical examination. A fourth attempt must occur within twelve months of the date of the board's decision. If an applicant fails any part of the examination after remedial training, the board must approve additional retakes.

History: Effective April 1, 2015.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-01.2

20-04-01-05. Additional requirements for licensure by credential review.

The board may grant a license to practice dental hygiene to an applicant who has met the requirements of North Dakota Century Code section 43-20-01.3 and all the following requirements:

1. The applicant has successfully completed a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course within two years of application.
2. The applicant has the physical health and visual acuity to enable the applicant to meet the minimum standards of professional competence.
3. The applicant has completed sixteen hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-04-01-08 within two years of application.

History: Effective January 1, 2011.
General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-01.3

20-04-01-06. Additional requirements for applications.

Applications must be completed within twelve months of filing. The board may require an interview with the applicant. In addition to the application requirements of North Dakota Century Code sections 43-20-01.2, 43-20-01.3, and 43-20-06, the board may require an application to include:

1. Proof of identity, including any name change.
2. An official transcript sent by an accredited dental school directly to the board.
3. Evidence demonstrating the applicant passed the examination administered by the joint commission on national dental examinations within two years of application.
4. Evidence demonstrating the applicant passed a clinical competency examination, approved by the board, within two years of application.
5. A certification, from the licensing board of every jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed, that the applicant is licensed in good standing.
6. Certification that the applicant has completed a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course within two years of application.
7. Verification of physical health and visual acuity.
8. For applications for licensure by credential review, the law and rules stating the requirements for licensure, when the applicant was licensed, of the jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed.
9. For applications for licensure by credential review and reinstatement from inactive status, proof of completion of sixteen hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-04-01-08 within two years of application.
10. Any information required by the application forms prescribed by the board.

History: Effective January 1, 2011; April 1, 2015.
General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-01.2, 43-20-01.3, 43-20-06

20-04-01-07. Inactive status - License reinstatement.

A dental hygienist may, upon payment of the fee determined by the board, place the dental hygienist's license on inactive status. A dental hygienist on inactive status shall be excused from the payment of renewal fees, except inactive status renewal fees, and continuing education. A dental hygienist on inactive status shall not practice in North Dakota. To reinstate a license on inactive status, the dental hygienist shall apply on a form prescribed by the board, pay a reinstatement fee, and meet all of the following requirements:

1. The applicant has passed a clinical competency examination administered by a regional dental testing service, approved by the board in section 20-04-01-04, within two years of application. The board may, within the board's discretion, waive this requirement.
2. The applicant passes a written examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry in this state administered by the board at a meeting.
3. The applicant has completed sixteen hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-04-01-08 within two years of application.
4. The applicant has successfully completed a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course within two years of application.
5. Grounds for denial of the application under North Dakota Century Code section 43-20-05 do not exist.

History: Effective January 1, 2011; amended effective July 1, 2017.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-06

20-04-01-08. Continuing dental education for dental hygienists.

Each dental hygienist shall provide evidence on forms supplied by the board that the dental hygienist 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 dental hygienist may earn no more than eight hours from self-study. Self-study is an educational process designed to permit a participant to learn a given subject without involvement of a proctor. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses must provide hands-on training. All other continuing education requirements may be satisfied from 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.
 - d. For registered dental anesthesia hygienist permitholders, two hours related to sedation or anesthesia.

- e. For registered dental restorative hygienist permitholders, two hours related to restorative dentistry.
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 dental hygienists must hold a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate.
6. A dental hygienist who maintains a license on inactive status is not subject to continuing education requirements.
7. The board may audit the continuing education credits of a dental hygienist. Each licensee shall maintain certificates or records of continuing education activities from the previous renewal cycle. Upon receiving notice of an audit from the board, a licensee shall provide satisfactory documentation of attendance at, or participation in the continuing education activities listed on the licensee's continuing education form. Failure to comply with the audit is grounds for nonrenewal of or disciplinary action against the license.

History: Effective January 1, 2011; amended effective April 1, 2015; July 1, 2017.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-01.4