

ARTICLE 20-02 DENTISTS

Chapter
20-02-01 General Requirements

CHAPTER 20-02-01 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Section
20-02-01-01 Advertising
20-02-01-02 Office Emergency

20-02-01-03 Nitrous Oxide [Repealed]
20-02-01-03.1 Additional Requirements for Licensure by Examination
20-02-01-03.2 Additional Requirements for Licensure by Credential Review
20-02-01-03.3 Additional Requirements for Applications
20-02-01-03.4 Clinical Competency Examination Retakes
20-02-01-04 Temporary License to Practice Dentistry
20-02-01-04.1 Restricted License to Practice Dentistry [Repealed]
20-02-01-04.2 Volunteer License to Practice Dentistry
20-02-01-04.3 Inactive Status - License Reinstatement
20-02-01-05 Anesthesia and Sedation Permit Requirements
20-02-01-06 Continuing Dental Education for Dentists
20-02-01-07 Removable Dental Prostheses Owner Identification
20-02-01-08 Discontinuance of Practice - Retirement - Discontinuance of Treatment
20-02-01-09 Patient Records
20-02-01-10 Authorization of Laboratory Services
20-02-01-11 Permit for the Use of Dermal Fillers and Botulinum Toxin for Dental Use
20-02-01-12 Dental Prescribers and Use of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
20-02-01-13 Exceptions to the Review Requirement

20-02-01-01. Advertising.

1. Advertising by dentists is permitted to disseminate information for the purpose of providing the public a sufficient basis upon which to make an informed selection of dentists. In the interest of protecting the public health, safety, and welfare, advertising which is false, deceptive, or misleading is prohibited.
2. All advertising must contain the legal name of the dentist, or a reasonable variation thereof. In the case of a partnership or corporation, the name used in the advertisement may be the true name of the partnership or corporation. The advertisement must also contain the location, or locations, of the dentist, partnership, or corporation. It is false or misleading for a dentist to hold themselves out to the public as a specialist, or any variation of that term, in a practice area unless the dentist meets the criteria of subsection 3.
3. A dentist engaged in general practice who wishes to announce the services available in the dentist's practice is permitted to announce the availability of those services as long as the dentist avoids using language that expresses or implies that the dentist is a specialist. If a dentist, other than a specialist, wishes to advertise a limitation of practice, such advertisement must state that the limited practice is being conducted by a general dentist. A dentist who is a specialist may announce the dentist's bona fide specialty provided that the dentist has successfully completed a qualifying postdoctoral educational program accredited by an agency recognized by the United States department of education, of full-time study two or more years in length, resulting in a master of science degree or certificate from an accredited program or be a diplomate of a nationally recognized certifying board approved by this board.

Such a dentist may announce that the dentist's practice is limited to the special area of dental practice in which the dentist has or wishes to announce. In determining whether an organization is a qualifying specialty board or organization, the board shall consider the following standards:

- a. Whether the organization requires completion of an educational program with didactic, clinical, and experiential requirements appropriate for the specialty or subspecialty field of dentistry in which the dentist seeks certification, and the collective didactic, clinical, and experiential requirements are similar in scope and complexity to a qualifying postdoctoral educational program. Programs that require solely experiential training, continuing education classes, on-the-job training, or payment to the specialty board shall not constitute a qualifying specialty board or organization;
 - b. Whether the organization requires all dentists seeking certification to pass a written or oral examination, or both, that tests the applicant's knowledge and skill in the specialty or subspecialty area of dentistry and includes a psychometric evaluation for validation;
 - c. Whether the organization has written rules on maintenance of certification and requires periodic recertification;
 - d. Whether the organization has written bylaws and a code of ethics to guide the practice of its members;
 - e. Whether the organization has staff to respond to consumer and regulatory inquiries; and
 - f. Whether the organization is recognized by another entity whose primary purpose is to evaluate and assess dental specialty boards and organizations.
4. A dentist who advertises on radio or television must retain a recorded copy of such advertising for a period of one year following the termination of the use of such advertising, and is responsible to make recorded copies of such advertising available to the North Dakota state board of dental examiners within thirty days following a request from the board for such copies.
 5. No dentist may advertise the dentist, the dentist's staff, the dentist's services, or the dentist's method or methods of delivery of dental services to be superior to those of any other licensed dentist, unless such claim or claims can be substantiated by the advertiser, upon whom rests the burden of proof.
 6. This section may not be construed to prohibit a dentist who does not qualify to hold themselves out to the public as a specialist under subsection 3 from restricting the dental practice to one or more specific areas of dentistry or from advertising the availability of dental services, provided that such advertisements do not include the term "specialist", or any variation of that term, and must state that the services advertised are to be provided by a general dentist. No advertising by a dentist may contain representations or other information contrary to the provisions of North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-18 or North Dakota Administrative Code title 20.

History: Effective September 1, 1980; amended effective February 1, 1992; October 1, 1993; April 1, 2015; July 1, 2022.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-06, 43-28-10, 43-28-10.1, 43-28-18

20-02-01-02. Office emergency.

Every dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, qualified dental assistant, dental anesthesia assistant, qualified dental assistant-limited radiology registrant, or registered dental assistant practicing in North Dakota must have a current certificate of proficiency in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

History: Effective February 1, 1992; amended effective October 1, 1993; May 1, 1996; August 1, 1998; January 1, 2011; October 1, 2024.

General Authority: NDCC 43-20-10, 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-20-01.2, 43-20-01.3, 43-20-10, 43-20-13.2, 43-28-06, 43-28-10.1, 43-28-15

20-02-01-03. Nitrous oxide.

Repealed effective July 1, 2022.

20-02-01-03.1. ~~Additional requirements for licensure by examination.~~

The board may grant a license to practice dentistry to an applicant who has met the requirements of North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-10.1 and all the following requirements:

1. The applicant has passed the examination administered by the joint commission on national dental examinations or the national dental examining board of Canada within five years of application.
2. The applicant has passed, within five years of application, a clinical competency examination approved by the board. Required components shall include a periodontal component, posterior composite or amalgam restoration, a class three restorative procedure, and an endodontic component, and after April 1, 2021, a fixed prosthetic component.
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, 2015; July 1, 2017; April 1, 2021.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-10.1

20-02-01-03.2. ~~Additional requirements for licensure by credential review.~~

The board may grant a license to practice dentistry to an applicant who has met the requirements of North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-15 or section 43-51.1-02 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 thirty-two hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-02-01-06 within two years of application.

3.4. After assessing the applicant's training, education, and experience, the board may require the applicant to pass a clinical competency examination approved by the board. The examination may include a periodontal component, posterior composite or amalgam restoration, a class three restorative procedure, an endodontic component, and a fixed prosthetic component.

Commented [D51]: Board agrees/accepts this change per mtg: 08/01/2025

Commented [D52]: Board agrees/accepts the changes to this full section per mtg: 08/01/2025

Commented [D53]: Board agrees/accepts this change per mtg: 08/01/2025

New rule to clarify that, depending on an applicant's background, require a clinical exam to someone who is seeking licensure by credential.

History: Effective January 1, 2011.
General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-15

20-02-01-03.3. Additional discretionary requirements for all applications.

~~Applications must be completed within six months of filing. The board may require an interview with the applicant.~~ In addition to the application requirements of North Dakota Century Code sections 43-28-10.1, 43-28-11, 43-28-15, and 43-28-17, 43-51.1-02, and North Dakota Administrative Code section 20-02-01-03.1 and section 20-02-01-03.2, the board may require an application to be completed within six months of submission of initial application materials and include:

Commented [DS4]: Board agrees/accepts the changes to this full section per mtg: 08/01/2025

Cleaning up and clarifying that these are discretionary criteria for all types of applicants (e.g., applicants applying under the laws of licensure by exam, licensure by credential, inactive licensure, universal licensure.

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 five years of application.
4. Evidence demonstrating the applicant passed a clinical competency examination, approved by the board, within five years of application.
5. Anything necessary for a criminal history record check pursuant to North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-11.2.
6. A certification, from the licensing board of every jurisdiction in which the applicant is licensed, that the applicant is licensed in good standing.
7. Certification-Verification that the applicant has completed a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course within two years of application.
8. Verification of physical health and visual acuity.
9. 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.
10. For applications for licensure by credential review and reinstatement from inactive status, proof of completion of thirty-two hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-02-01-06 within two years of application.

Commented [DS5]: Change per Bev 8/28 accepted by board 9/19/2025

11. An interview of the applicant by the board.

Commented [DS6]: 8/1/2025 meeting. Just moving this from the first paragraph and into the list of criteria.

~~11.12.~~ Any information required by the application forms prescribed by the board.

History: Effective January 1, 2011; amended effective April 1, 2015; October 1, 2024.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-10.1, 43-28-11, 43-28-11.2, 43-28-15, 43-28-17

20-02-01-03.4. Clinical competency examination retakes.

If an applicant taking the clinical competency examination in the integrated format is unsuccessful after having exhausted all allowable retake opportunities for the failed parts, one failure is recorded. The applicant then shall retake all five parts of the examination in the traditional format. If the applicant is unsuccessful in one or more parts, a second failure is recorded. If the failed parts are retaken and failed again, a third failure shall be recorded. A dental 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 school or a dental testing agency. The proposed remedial training must be approved by the board.
2. Submit to the board proof 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, additional retakes must be approved by the board.

History: Effective January 1, 2011; amended effective October 1, 2024.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-06, 43-28-10.1, 43-28-17

20-02-01-04. Temporary license to practice dentistry.

The board may grant a nonrenewable temporary license to practice dentistry in the state of North Dakota for a period not to exceed one year. Between meetings of the board, the executive director of the board may review the temporary license application and grant a ~~provisional temporary~~ license if all requirements are met.

Commented [DS7]: Board agrees/accepts the changes to this section per mtg: 08/01/2025.

Revised wording to align with SB 2395

1. A temporary license to practice dentistry in North Dakota may be granted to a dentist when the dentist:
 - a. Has applied to the board as prescribed in North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-11.
 - b. Has paid the nonrefundable application and license fee that may be prescribed by the board.
 - c. Holds an active dental license in another jurisdiction, has been a full-time student or resident of a dental program accredited by the American dental association's commission on dental accreditation within the last six months and provides evidence of a diploma from a program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association and meets any other requirements to receive a license to practice dentistry under section 20-02-01-03.1, and 20-02-01-03.2, or has held a North Dakota dental license within the previous five years.
 - d. Has provided a statement from the licensing authority of all the states in which the dentist is licensed that the dentist's license is unencumbered, unrestricted, and that the dentist's professional record is free of blemish for professional misconduct, substandard care, or violations of the state's practice act.
 - e. Has certified that no disciplinary actions are pending in other states or jurisdictions.
 - f. Has authorized the board to seek information concerning the dentist's professional and personal background and agrees to hold harmless those individuals who may provide such information to the board.
 - g. The applicant has completed thirty-two hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-02-01-06.
 - h. The board shall require a criminal background check if the licensee anticipates practicing for a period greater than ten days.
2. The board may apply such restrictions as it deems appropriate to limit the scope of the practice of dentistry under the authority of the temporary license.
3. The board may restrict the licensee to engage in dental practice, as may be limited above, only at certain and specifically defined practice locations.
4. The board may require the North Dakota jurisprudence examination.

History: Effective February 1, 1992; amended effective October 1, 2007; January 1, 2011; April 1, 2015; July 1, 2017.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06
Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-06

20-02-01-04.1. Restricted license to practice dentistry.

Repealed effective October 1, 2007.

20-02-01-04.2. Volunteer license to practice dentistry.

1. The Board may issue volunteer licenses to practice dentistry to applicants who were formerly licensed in North Dakota or who have active licenses issued by other states where the laws are at least substantially equivalent to those of this state if the applicants either:

- a. Have practiced for three of the five years immediately preceding the application;
- b. Are determined by the board to be sufficiently experienced and qualified to provide volunteer dental care and will be supervised in the volunteer setting by a dentist who agrees to be responsible for ensuring the care provided by the applicant meets the minimum standards of professional competence;
- c. Is a resident of a board-approved specialty program; or
- d. The board determines that the applicant is qualified and satisfies the criteria specified under North Dakota Century Code section 43-20-01.2

2. Applicants must complete and submit an application form provided by the board including:

- a. A current cardiopulmonary resuscitation course certificate.
- b. A nonrefundable application fee.
- c. Any documentation requested by the board related to the applicant's practice or disciplinary history.

3. A volunteer license:

- a. May only be used to provide primary health services without remuneration directly or indirectly in a board-approved setting.
- b. Must be renewed annually.
- c. May be limited, conditioned, or restricted by the board as to its scope, duration, or other criteria.

~~A patient who is seen by a dentist who holds a volunteer license to practice dentistry shall not be considered a patient of record of the volunteer dentist. The dentist is not obligated to treat the patient outside of the volunteer practice setting. Between meetings of the board, the executive director of the board may review the volunteer license application and grant a provisional license if all the requirements are met. A volunteer license to practice dentistry in North Dakota, renewable annually by application to the board, may be granted when the following conditions are met:~~

- ~~1. formerly licensed and actively practicing in the state of North Dakota or another jurisdiction for at least three of the five years immediately preceding application, where the requirements are at least substantially equivalent to those of this state; or~~
- ~~2. The applicant is the resident of a board-approved specialty program; or~~
- ~~3. The board determines that the applicant is qualified and satisfies the criteria specified under North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-10.1.~~

Commented [DS8]: Reorganizing this a bit to clarify it and to align it with the language in SB 2217. Board agrees/accepts the changes to this full section per mtg: 08/01/2025. Rather than show individual edits its easier to read if I delete the entire section and retype it in full here.

Commented [DS9]: Board accepts a suggestion that would all those who have been out of practice for more than 5 years to also volunteer.

- ~~4. The applicant agrees to provide primary health services without remuneration directly or indirectly in a board approved setting.~~
- ~~5. The applicant holds a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation course certification.~~
- ~~6. The applicant has completed continuing education requirements of the board.~~
- ~~7. The applicant has made application for a volunteer dental license in a manner prescribed by the board.~~
- ~~1. The board may collect from the applicant the nonrefundable application and license fee prescribed by the board.~~
- ~~2. The board may apply such restrictions as it deems appropriate to limit the scope of the practice of dentistry under the authority of the volunteer license.~~

History: Effective April 1, 2000; amended effective January 1, 2011; April 1, 2015; July 1, 2022, MONTH, DATE, 2026.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-06

20-02-01-04.3. Inactive status - License reinstatement.

Upon payment of the fee determined by the board, a dentist may place the dentist's license on inactive status. A dentist on inactive status is excused from the payment of renewal fees, except inactive status renewal fees, and continuing education. A dentist on inactive status may not practice in North Dakota. Only licensees on inactive status may apply for licensure reinstatement. To reinstate a license on inactive status, the dentist shall apply on the form as 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 dental testing service, approved by the board in section 20-02-01-03.1, within five years of application or provides evidence of the clinical practice of dentistry within the previous five years. The board may waive this requirement at the board's discretion.

Formatted: Left, Right: 0", Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.5" + Indent at: 0.75", Tab stops: Not at 0.69"

Commented [DS10]: Board agrees/accepts all changes to this section per mtg: 08/01/2025

That already allows dentists and hygienists to reinstate their license only if they stayed in "inactive" status. If the don't, and just let their license expire, lapse and don't renew it—then if they want to get a license again, they have to reply for licensure

Commented [DS11]: Discuss per Bev/Dave emails 8/28. At 9/19/2025 meeting the Board declined to modify this due to changes made to reentry rule

2. The applicant has passed ~~a-the board-administered~~ written examination on the laws and rules governing the practice of dentistry in this state ~~administered by the board at a meeting within two years of application.~~
3. The applicant has completed thirty-two hours of continuing education in accordance with section 20-02-01-06 within two years of application.
4. The applicant successfully has completed a cardiopulmonary resuscitation course within two years of application.
5. Grounds for denial of the application under North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-18 do not exist.

Commented [DS12]: The exam is administered online now, not at meetings. Accepted 8/1

History: Effective April 1, 2006; amended effective January 1, 2011; July 1, 2017; July 1, 2022; October 1, 2024, ~~MONTH, DATE, 2026-~~

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-17

20-02-01-05. Anesthesia and sedation permit requirements.

The rules in this chapter are adopted to define standards for the administration of anesthesia and sedation by dentists or a dentist who collaborates with a qualified and licensed anesthesia or sedation provider. A dentist may not use any form of sedation on any patient if the intent is beyond minimal sedation unless such dentist has a permit, currently in effect, issued by the board, and renewable biennially thereafter, authorizing the use of such general anesthesia, deep sedation, or moderate sedation. With the administration of anesthesia, the qualified dentist must have the training, skills, drugs, and equipment immediately available in order to rapidly identify and manage an adverse occurrence until either emergency medical assistance arrives or the patient returns to the intended level of sedation or full recovery without airway, respiratory, or cardiovascular complications.

1. Administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia - Requirements. The following standards apply to the administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia:
 - a. Inhalation equipment must have a fail-safe system that is appropriately checked and calibrated. The equipment also must have either a functioning device that prohibits the delivery of less than thirty percent oxygen or an appropriately calibrated and functioning in-line oxygen analyzer with audible alarm. A scavenging system must be available if gases other than oxygen or air are used.
 - b. Patient dental records must include the concentration administered and duration of administration.
 - c. A dentist may not delegate monitoring of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia once the patient has ingested an enteral drug for the purpose of minimal sedation.
 - d. Before authorizing a dental hygienist or registered dental assistant to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia, the dentist shall provide and document training in the proper and safe operation of the nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia equipment.
 - e. A patient receiving nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia must be continually monitored by authorized dental staff. A dental hygienist or a registered dental assistant may terminate or reduce the amount of nitrous oxide previously administered by the authorized nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia provider.
 - f. The board may issue a permit authorizing the administration of nitrous oxide inhalation to a dentist, dental hygienist, or registered dental assistant if the dentist, dental hygienist, or registered dental assistant provides:

- (1) Evidence of successful completion of a twelve-hour, board-approved course of training or course provided by a program accredited by an accrediting body recognized by the United States department of education, and has either:

- (a) Completed the course within thirteen months before application; or
- (b) Completed the course more than thirteen months before application, legally administered nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia for a period of time during the three years preceding application, and provided written documentation confirming the applicant's proficiency, which may include a statement from a dentist that has employed or supervised the applicant, attesting to the current clinical proficiency of the applicant to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia.

- (2) Evidence of current certification in basic life support by the American heart association for the health care provider, or an equivalent program approved by the board.

2. Administration of minimal sedation. A dentist administering minimal sedation shall maintain basic life support certification and comply with the following standards:

- a. An appropriate sedative record must be maintained and must contain the names and time of all drugs administered, including local anesthetics and nitrous oxide. The time and condition of the patient at discharge from the treatment area and facility requires documentation.
- b. Medications used to produce minimal sedation are limited to a single enteral drug, administered either singly or in divided doses, by the enteral route to achieve the desired clinical effect, not to exceed the maximum food and drug administration recommended dose for unmonitored home use in a single appointment. The administration of enteral drugs exceeding the maximum recommended dose during a single appointment is considered to be moderate sedation.
- c. Drugs and techniques used must carry a margin of safety wide enough to render the unintended loss of consciousness unlikely for minimal sedation, factoring in titration and the patient's age, comorbidities, weight, body mass index, and ability to metabolize drugs.
- d. Combining two or more enteral drugs, excluding nitrous oxide, prescribing or administering drugs that are not recommended for unmonitored home use, or administering any parenteral drug constitutes moderate sedation and requires that the dentist must hold a moderate sedation permit.
- e. Facilities and equipment must include:
 - (1) Suction equipment capable of aspirating gastric contents from the mouth and pharynx;
 - (2) Portable oxygen delivery system, including full face masks and a bag-valve-mask combination with appropriate connectors capable of delivering positive pressure, oxygen enriched ventilation to the patient;
 - (3) Blood pressure cuff (or sphygmomanometer) of appropriate size;
 - (4) Automated external defibrillator or defibrillator;
 - (5) Stethoscope or equivalent monitoring device; and

Commented [DS13]: Input from emails between Dave and Dr. Olson about an applicant. For applicants whose Nitrous admin coursework was over 13 months ago, we seek a letter from their supervising dentist or employer to verify that they safely administered nitrous within the last three years. A solo practicing dentist may not have a former supervisor. This revision addresses that possible change.

(6) The following emergency drugs must be available and maintained:

- (a) Bronchodilator;
- (b) Anti-hypoglycemic agent;
- (c) Aspirin;
- (d) Antihistaminic;
- (e) Coronary artery vasodilator; and
- (f) Anti-anaphylactic agent.

f. A dentist, ~~or qualified trained dental sedation staff member as defined in section 20-01-02-01,~~ responsible for patient monitoring must be continuously in the presence of the patient in the office, operatory, and recovery area before administration or, if the patient self-administered the sedative agent, immediately upon arrival and throughout recovery until the patient is discharged by the dentist.

g. A dentist shall ensure any advertisements related to the availability of antianxiety premedication, or minimal sedation clearly reflect the level of sedation provided and are not misleading.

3. Administration of moderate sedation. Before administering moderate sedation, a dentist licensed under North Dakota Century Code chapter 43-28 shall obtain a permit issued by the board, renewable biennially thereafter. An applicant for an initial permit shall submit a completed application and application fee on a form provided by the board and meet the following requirements:

a. An applicant for an initial moderate sedation permit shall meet the following educational requirements. This section does not apply to a dentist who has maintained a parenteral sedation permit in North Dakota and has been administering parenteral sedation in a dental office before July 1, 2022.

(1) The applicant successfully shall complete a comprehensive sixty-hour predoctoral dental school, postgraduate education or continuing education in moderate sedation ~~with a participant faculty ratio of not more than four to one.~~ The course must include courses in enteral and parenteral moderate sedation plus individual management of twenty live patient clinical case experiences by the intravenous route and provide certification of competence in rescuing patients from a deeper level of sedation than intended, including managing the airway, intravascular or intraosseous access, and reversal medications. The formal training program must be sponsored by or affiliated with a university, teaching hospital, or other facility approved by the board or provided by a curriculum of an accredited dental school and have a provision by course director or faculty of additional clinical experience if participant competency has not been achieved in allotted time.

(2) The course must be directed by a dentist or physician qualified by experience and training with a minimum of three years of experience, including formal postdoctoral training in anxiety and pain control. The course director must possess a current permit or license to administer moderate or deep sedation and general anesthesia in at least one state.

b. A dentist utilizing moderate sedation shall maintain current certification in basic life support and advanced cardiac life support if treating adult patients or pediatric advanced life support if treating pediatric patients and have present a staff of supervised personnel capable of handling procedures, complications, and emergency incidents, including at

Commented [DS14]: At the 8/1/2025 meeting, the Board recognized that dentists suggesting changes to this rule seem to be, in part, misunderstanding this rule and what a 'qualified staff member' is (they are frustrated that it requires a QDA, a DAA, etc). The rule does not require that.

The Board discussed that maybe the current title itself causes this confusion. Per recommendation from Dr. Tanabe on 09/19/2025 the Board is changing the name to 'trained dental sedation staff member.' It declined to delete the need of having this type of person or dentists be in the operatory ready to assist in case of emergency.

Commented [DS15]: Board agreed/supported this suggested revision at mtg: 8/1/2025

Commented [DS16]: Per the 8/1/2025 meeting, the board not accepting this change because it is important for patient safety and too dangerous to eliminate.

least one ~~qualified dental staff~~trained dental sedation staff member as specified in subsection 40 of section 20-01-02-01.

- c. A permit holder may not administer or employ any agents that have a narrow margin for maintaining consciousness, including ultra-short acting barbiturates, propofol, ketamine, or similarly acting drugs, agents, or techniques, or any combination thereof that likely would render a patient deeply sedated, generally anesthetized, or otherwise not meeting the conditions of moderate sedation.
 - d. During moderate sedation the adequacy of ventilation must be evaluated by continual observation of qualitative clinical signs and monitoring for the presence of exhaled carbon dioxide unless precluded or invalidated by the nature of the patient, procedure, or equipment.
 - e. Successfully completed the moderate site evaluation required by this chapter. An initial site evaluation must be completed within sixty days of the approval of the initial permit application.
 - f. Administering intranasal versed or fentanyl, or both, is considered deep sedation. Rules for deep sedation and general anesthesia site evaluations apply for administration of intranasal versed or fentanyl, or both.
4. Administration of deep sedation and general anesthesia. Before administering deep sedation or general anesthesia, a dentist licensed under North Dakota Century Code chapter 43-28 shall obtain a permit issued by the board and renewable biennially thereafter. An applicant for an initial permit shall submit a completed application and application fee on a form provided by the board and:
- a. Within the three years before submitting the permit application, shall provide evidence the applicant successfully has completed an advanced education program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation that provides training in deep sedation and general anesthesia and formal training in airway management, and completed a minimum of five months of advanced training in anesthesiology and related academic subjects beyond the undergraduate dental school level in a training program approved by the board; or
 - b. Must be, within the three years before submitting the permit application, a diplomate of the American board of oral and maxillofacial surgeons or eligible for examination by the American board of oral and maxillofacial surgeons, a fellow of the American association of oral and maxillofacial surgeons, a fellow of the American dental society of anesthesiology, a diplomate of the national dental board of anesthesiology, or a diplomate of the American dental board of anesthesiology or eligible for examination by the American dental board of anesthesiology;
 - c. For an applicant who completed the requirements of subdivision a or b more than three years before submitting the permit application, shall provide on a form provided by the board a written affidavit affirming the applicant has administered general anesthesia to a minimum of twenty-five patients within the year before submitting the permit application or seventy-five patients within the last five years before submitting the permit application and the following documentation:
 - (1) A copy of the deep sedation and general anesthesia permit in effect in another jurisdiction or certification of military training in general anesthesia from the applicant's commanding officer; and

- (2) On a form provided by the board, a written affidavit affirming the completion of thirty-two hours of continuing education pertaining to oral and maxillofacial surgery or general anesthesia taken within three years before application.
- d. Successfully shall complete the general anesthesia and deep sedation site evaluation required by this chapter. An initial site evaluation must be completed within sixty days of the approval of the initial permit application.
- e. For a dentist utilizing deep sedation or general anesthesia shall maintain current certification in basic life support and advanced cardiac life support if treating adult patients or pediatric advanced life support if treating pediatric patients.
- f. For a dentist authorized to provide deep sedation and general anesthesia, shall utilize and have present a staff of supervised personnel capable of handling procedures, complications, and emergency incidents, including at least two ~~qualified dental staff~~trained dental sedation staff members as specified in subsection 40 of section 20-01-02-01.

5. Site evaluations for moderate sedation, deep sedation, and general anesthesia. A licensed and permitted dentist or host dentist utilizing moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia is required to ~~have an undergo site evaluations of for the each~~ location where sedation or anesthesia services are rendered. ~~Site evaluations must be conducted by a initially and every three years thereafter and shall maintain a properly equipped facility. A North Dakota licensed anesthesia or sedation provider authorized approved by the board. Site evaluators shall review of re-evaluate the credentials, facilities, equipment, personnel, and procedures of a permit holder or host dentist. Site evaluations must be scheduled by the dentists and must be conducted initially and within every three years thereafter following a successful initial application or renewal.~~ The purpose of the evaluation is to assess the patient's anesthetic risk and assess a site's ability to provide emergency care; therefore, the site evaluation emphasizes recognition and management of emergencies and complications associated with office administration of sedation and recordkeeping. Requirements of the site evaluation are as follows:

- a. The applicant is responsible for scheduling a site evaluation with a board-appointed anesthesia site evaluator. ~~The Permit holders and~~ host dentists must be present during the site evaluation and submit the site evaluation form to the site evaluator no less than two weeks before the scheduled site evaluation and must include the following:
 - (1) Life support credentials of any ~~qualified dental staff~~trained dental sedation staff member or medical staff and anesthesia provider or host dentist;
 - (2) Copy of licenses ~~that may be held by any of qualified dental staff~~trained dental sedation staff member or other attending medical staff, or both;
 - (3) Copy of current permit to prescribe and administer controlled substances in this state issued by the United States drug enforcement administration;
 - (4) Copy of patient consent agreement and health history forms;
 - (5) Copy of a blank sedation monitoring form;
 - (6) Preanesthesia sedation instructions; and
 - (7) Post care instructions.
- b. The site evaluator shall submit a completed site evaluation form and documentation to the board. The dentist's facility where anesthesia and sedation are provided must meet the requirements of this chapter and maintain the following properly operating equipment and supplies appropriate for the age and relative size of the patient during the provision of

Commented [DS17]: At 8/1/2025 meeting, the Board discussed and seeks to keep this in place at least one more round of rulemaking. It was instituted because site evaluations were indicating concerns. Those concerns are lessening. They might be lessening because this 3 year cycle is having the intended effect, or might be less because there wasn't a problem before and 5 years perhaps would be acceptable. But because critical patient safety is involved, the Board is leaving it in place and will reassess at next rulemaking.

Commented [DS18]: Per 8/1/2025 meeting the Board accepts the track changes to this section. BUT the Board does not agree to make changes that would allow Moderate Permit holders to be site evaluators. Because patient safety is paramount, a CRNA or MD should do it. Keeping it this way also protects the Moderate permit dentists—because if a patient health issue ever arises, they'd be able to point at the high level of review they underwent. Its different treatment than Deep Sedation permit holders who can review one another, but there are important reasons it should be and is different. A reason Deep Sedation permit holders at site evaluators is safer is that those permit holders are also under rigorous AOMS evaluations and regulations. The Board discussed that it does not seek to create more rigor (like AOMS level requirements) for moderate sedation providers.

anesthesia and sedation by the permitholder or physician anesthesiologist or certified registered nurse anesthetist or other qualified sedation provider:

- (1) Emergency drugs as required by the board, including:
 - (a) Vasopressor;
 - (b) Corticosteroid (only deep sedation or general anesthesia permit holders);
 - (c) Bronchodilator;
 - (d) Muscle relaxant;
 - (e) Intravenous medication for treatment of cardiopulmonary arrest;
 - (f) Narcotic antagonist;
 - (g) Benzodiazepine antagonist;
 - (h) Antihistamine;
 - (i) Antiarrhythmic;
 - (j) Anticholinergic;
 - (k) Coronary artery vasodilator;
 - (l) Antihypertensive (only deep sedation or general anesthesia permit holders);
 - (m) Antihypoglycemic agent;
 - (n) Antiemetic;
 - (o) Adenosine, for general anesthesia and deep sedation sites;
 - (p) Dantrolene, for general anesthesia and deep sedation sites, if volatile gases are used; and
 - (q) Anticonvulsant;
- (2) Positive pressure oxygen and supplemental oxygen delivery system;
- (3) Stethoscope;
- (4) Suction equipment, including tonsillar or pharyngeal and emergency backup medical suction device;
- (5) Oropharyngeal or nasopharyngeal airways, or both;
- (6) Pulse oximeter;
- (7) Auxiliary lighting;
- (8) Blood pressure monitor with an automated time determined capability and method for recording the data;
- (9) Cardiac defibrillator or automated external defibrillator (AED);
- (10) End-tidal carbon dioxide monitor;
- (11) Electrocardiograph monitor;
- (12) Laryngoscope multiple blades, backup batteries, and backup bulbs;

Commented [DS19]: 9/10/25 Dr. Tanabe. Revise the language for these two meds because moderate sedation holders would not need/should not be using these.

- (13) Endotracheal tubes and appropriate connectors;
 - (14) Magill forceps;
 - (15) Appropriate intravenous setup, including appropriate supplies and fluids;
 - (16) Cricothyrotomy equipment;
 - (17) Thermometer; and
 - (18) Scale.
- c. The operatory where moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia is to be administered must:
- (1) Be of adequate size and design to permit physical access of emergency equipment and personnel and to permit effective emergency management;
 - (2) Be equipped with a chair or table adequate for emergency treatment, including a chair or cardiopulmonary resuscitation board suitable to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation;
 - (3) Be equipped with a lighting system to permit the evaluation of the patient's skin and mucosal color with a backup system to permit the completion of any operation underway at the time of a general power failure;
 - (4) Be equipped with suction and backup suction equipment also including suction catheters and tonsil suction; and
 - (5) Be equipped with an oxygen delivery system and backup system complete with full-face masks and appropriate connectors, capable of delivering oxygen to the patient under positive pressure.
- d. An operatory may double as a recovery location. A recovery room must be equipped with the following:
- (1) Suction and backup suction equipment;
 - (2) Positive pressure oxygen;
 - (3) Sufficient light to provide emergency treatment;
 - (4) Be of adequate size and design to allow emergency access and management; and
 - (5) Be situated to allow the patient to be observed by the dentist or a ~~qualified-trained dental sedation~~ staff member at all times.
- e. The applicant or permitholder shall provide the site evaluator with documentation confirming that the applicant or permitholder maintains written emergency protocol and conducts staff training on all patient emergencies listed below. The written documentation must demonstrate that the applicant or permitholder conducted quarterly mock codes with staff. ~~Not every emergency listed below needs to be included in each quarterly training. Instead, —and that~~ each of the following clinical emergencies ~~are~~ must be included in a quarterly mock code training at least once every two years:
- (1) Laryngospasm;
 - (2) Bronchospasm;
 - (3) Emesis and aspiration;

Commented [DS20]:

Board is keeping the documentation requirement this in place, but will work to identify resources and best practices on documentation, and provide it to permit holders (AOMS and ADA resources might be helpful). Per mtg 8/1/2025

Commented [DS21]: Board approves/agrees with track changes to try again to clarify this rule per mtg: 8/1/2025

We still receive input where dentists are under the misimpression that all 17 codes must be trained on every quarter. That has never been the case and we clarified it in 2024. In this rulemaking we are providing even more clarification to aid in correcting that misunderstanding.

- (4) Airway blockage by foreign body;
 - (5) Angina pectoris;
 - (6) Myocardial infarction;
 - (7) Hypertension/hypotension;
 - (8) Hypertensive crisis;
 - (9) Hematoma;
 - (10) Extravasation;
 - (11) Phlebitis;
 - (12) Intra-arterial injection;
 - (13) Syncope;
 - (14) Hyperventilation/hypoventilation;
 - (15) Seizures;
 - (16) Allergic and toxicity reactions; and
 - (17) Malignant hypothermia, deep sedation and general anesthesia only.
- f. Failure to successfully complete the anesthesia inspection results in an automatic suspension of anesthesia and sedation privileges. The applicant shall have thirty days from the date of inspection to correct documented deficiencies. Once the deficiencies are corrected by the applicant and approved by the board, the board may reinstate the sedation and anesthesia privileges.
- g. Effective January 1, 2028, completion of a board-approved anesthesia simulation course within twelve months prior to or after that date, and the completion of anesthesia simulation training successfully every five years thereafter as required by section 20-02-01-06.
6. Other anesthesia providers. Host dentists who intend to use the services of a certified registered nurse anesthetist, anesthesiologist, or another dentist authorized by permit to administer moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia, shall notify the board before sedation services are provided and arrange a site evaluation with the board appointed anesthesia professional. The sedation provider is responsible for discharge assessment. The host dentist shall run a mock code quarterly with the sedation team and maintain a record of the mock code schedule and attendance. The anesthesia provider and the host dentist shall remain at the facility until the sedated patient is discharged.
7. Renewal of permit and site evaluation. All sedation and anesthesia permits must be renewed biennially, concurrent with the dentist's license renewal. The board of dental examiners may renew such permit biennially provided:
- a. Requirements of the permit have been met;
 - b. Application for renewal and renewal fee is received by the board before the date of expiration of the permit. If the renewal application and renewal fee have not been received by the expiration of the permit, late fees as determined by the board apply; and
 - c. The anesthesia site inspection is in good standing with the board of dental examiners.

Commented [DS22]: Per 8/1/2025 meeting:

Board agrees with this date language revision per mtg 8/1/2025.

Board seeks to keep this rule in place for patient safety and dentist skill reinforcement. It is hoping the SIM training will grow more legs and make this easier to complete

8. **Documentation.** Dentists administering sedation or anesthesia shall maintain adequate documentation.

- a. For the administration of local anesthesia, minimal sedation, and analgesia, the following documentation is required:
 - (1) Pertinent medical history, including weight and height;
 - (2) Medication administered and dosage; and
 - (3) Vital signs include heart rate and blood pressure.
- b. For administration of moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia the following documentation is required:
 - (1) A current and comprehensive medical history, to include current medications;
 - (2) Informed consent of the patient for the administration of anesthesia;
 - (3) An anesthesia record, which includes documentation of the following:
 - (a) Height and weight of the patient to allow for the calculation of body mass index and dosage of emergency medications;
 - (b) American society of anesthesiologist's physical status classification;
 - (c) Fasting or nothing by mouth status;
 - (d) Dental procedure performed on the patient;
 - (e) Time anesthesia commenced and ended;
 - (f) Parenteral access site and method, if utilized;
 - (g) Medication administered, including oxygen, dosage, route, and time given;
 - (h) Vital signs before and after anesthesia is utilized, to include heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate, and oxygen saturation for all patients;
 - (i) Intravenous fluids, if utilized;
 - (j) Response to anesthesia, including any complications;
 - (k) Condition and Aldrete score of patient at discharge;
 - (l) Records showing continuous monitoring of blood pressure, heart rate, and respiration using electrocardiographic monitoring and pulse oximetry recorded every five minutes, if utilized;
 - (m) Emergency protocols followed in the instance of an adverse event; and
 - (n) Staff participating in the administration of anesthesia, treatment, and monitoring.

9. **Personnel.**

- a. During the administration of minimal sedation, the supervising dentist and at least one other individual who is experienced in patient monitoring and documentation must be present.

Commented [D523]: Per 8/1/2025 meeting, the Board wants to keep this in place, but will work to identify resources and best practices on documentation, and provide it to permit holders (AOMS and ADA resources might be helpful).

- b. During the administration of moderate sedation, the anesthesia permit provider and at least one other individual who is experienced in patient monitoring and documentation must be present.
- c. During the administration of deep sedation or general anesthesia, the anesthesia permit provider and at least two other individuals meeting the following requirements must be present:
 - (1) One individual to assist the host dentist as necessary.
 - (2) One ~~qualified dental staff~~ trained dental sedation staff member as defined in section 20-01-02-01 solely responsible to assist with observation and monitoring of the patient.
- d. During any sedation or anesthesia procedure, the anesthesia permit provider retains full accountability, but delegation to trained dental personnel may occur under:
 - (1) Direct, continuous, and visual supervision by the anesthesia permitholder if medication, excluding local anesthetic, is being administered to a patient in the intraoperative phase of surgery. A patient under general anesthesia, deep sedation, and moderate sedation is in the intraoperative phase of surgery from the first administration of anesthetic medication until:
 - (a) End of the surgical procedure;
 - (b) No additional anesthetic medication will be administered;
 - (c) Peak effect of the anesthesia medication has been reached; or
 - (d) The patient has regained consciousness with a full return of protective reflexes, including the ability to respond purposely to physical and verbal commands; or
 - (2) Direct supervision by the dentist and anesthesia permitholder if a patient is being monitored in the postoperative phase of surgery.
- e. The dentist, provider, and a ~~All individuals assisting the anesthesia permitholder during sedation or anesthesia shall maintain current basic life support. The dentist and the provider shall maintain,~~ advanced cardiovascular life support if they are treating adult patients and, ~~or~~ pediatric advanced life support if they are treating pediatric patients. The dentist, provider, and all individuals assisting the anesthesia permitholder during sedation or anesthesia and shall be appropriately trained in emergency procedures through updates or drills that must be held at least quarterly and documented.

Commented [DS24]: Board approves change at 8/1/2025 mtg revising the title of this staff person

Commented [DS25]: Board accepts this clarification Per 8/1/2025 mtg.

We receive occasional questions on this rule because it does not seem to be written clearly. This revision does not change the rule at all; just clarifying as to who needs which life saving level of training.

10. Standards for patient monitoring.

- a. For the administration of local anesthesia and analgesia, patient monitoring must include the general state of the patient.
- b. For the administration of minimal sedation, patient monitoring must include the following:
 - (1) Pre- and post-procedure heart rate and respiratory rate;
 - (2) Pre- and post-procedure blood pressure; and
 - (3) Level of anesthesia or sedation.
- c. For the administration of moderate sedation, patient monitoring must include the following:
 - (1) Continuous heart rate, respiratory rate, and oxygen saturation;

(2) Intermittent blood pressure every five minutes or more frequently;

- (3) Continuous electrocardiograph, if clinically indicated by patient history, medical condition, or age;
 - (4) End-tidal carbon dioxide monitoring (capnography); and
 - (5) Level of anesthesia or sedation.
 - d. For the administration of deep sedation or general anesthesia, patient monitoring must include the following:
 - (1) Continuous heart rate, respiratory rate, and oxygen saturation;
 - (2) Continuous ventilatory status (spontaneous, assisted, controlled) for the administration of general anesthesia to a patient with an advanced airway in place (e.g. endotracheal tube or laryngeal mask airway);
 - (3) Intermittent blood pressure every five minutes or more frequently;
 - (4) Continuous electrocardiograph;
 - (5) Continuous temperature for the administration of volatile anesthesia gases or medications which are known triggers of malignant hyperthermia, otherwise the ability to measure temperature should be readily available;
 - (6) End-tidal carbon dioxide monitoring; and
 - (7) Level of anesthesia or sedation.
 - e. Monitoring equipment must be checked and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and documented on an annual basis.
11. Patient evaluation required. The decision to administer controlled drugs for dental treatment must be based on a documented evaluation of the health history and current medical condition of the patient in accordance with the class I through V risk category classifications of the American society of anesthesiologists. The findings of the evaluation, the American society of anesthesiologists risk assessment class assigned, and any special considerations must be recorded in the patient's record.
 12. Informed written consent. Before administration of any level of sedation or general anesthesia, the dentist shall discuss the nature and objectives of the planned level of sedation or general anesthesia along with the risks, benefits, and alternatives and shall obtain informed, written consent from the patient or other responsible party for the administration and for the treatment to be provided. The written consent must be maintained in the patient record.
 13. Pediatric patients. Sedating medication may not be prescribed for or administered to a patient eight years of age or younger before the patient's arrival at the dentist office or treatment facility.
 14. Emergency management. The licensed dentist authorized by permit to administer sedation or anesthesia and staff with patient care duties must be trained in emergency preparedness. Written protocols must include training requirements and procedures specific to the permitholder's equipment and drugs for responding to emergency situations involving sedation or anesthesia, including information specific to respiratory emergencies. The permitholder shall document this review of office training or mock codes. Protocols must include the American heart association's basic life support or cardiopulmonary resuscitation and advanced cardiac life support, or pediatric advanced life support for any practitioner administering moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia.

- a. If a patient enters a deeper level of sedation than the dentist is qualified and prepared to provide, the dentist shall stop the dental procedure until the patient returns to and is stable at the intended level of sedation.
- b. Quarterly mock codes to simulate office medical emergencies must be documented and available during a site evaluation.
- c. Authorization of duties. A dentist who authorizes the administration of general anesthesia, deep sedation, or moderate sedation in the dentist's dental office is responsible for assuring that:
 - (1) The equipment for administration and monitoring is readily available and in good working order before performing dental treatment with anesthesia or sedation. The equipment either must be maintained by the dentist in the dentist's office or provided by the anesthesia or sedation provider;
 - (2) The person administering the anesthesia or sedation is appropriately licensed;
 - (3) The individual authorized to monitor the patient is qualified;
 - (4) A physical evaluation and medical history is taken before administration of general anesthesia or sedation. A dentist holding a permit shall maintain records of the physical evaluation, medical history, and general anesthesia or sedation procedures; and
 - (5) Administration of sedation by another qualified provider requires the operating dentist to maintain advanced cardiac life support if the patient is nine years of age or older and pediatric advanced life support if the patient is eight years old or younger.
- d. Reporting. All licensed dentists in the practice of dentistry in this state shall submit a report within a period of seven days to the board office of any mortality or other incident which results in temporary or permanent physical or mental injury requiring hospitalization of the patient during, or as a result of, minimal sedation, nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia, moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia.
 - (1) The report must include responses to at least the following:
 - (a) Description of dental procedure;
 - (b) Description of preoperative physical condition of patient;
 - (c) List of drugs and dosage administered;
 - (d) Description, in detail, of techniques utilized in administering the drugs utilized;
 - (e) Description of adverse occurrence:
 - [1] Description, in detail, of symptoms of any complications, to include onset and type of symptoms in patient.
 - [2] Treatment instituted on the patient.
 - [3] Response of the patient to the treatment.
 - (f) Description of the patient's condition on termination of any procedures undertaken; and

(g) The unique reporting identification issued by the dental anesthesia incident reporting system, indicating a report has been submitted to the national database.

(2) Violations. A violation of any provision of this article constitutes unprofessional conduct and is grounds for the revocation or suspension of the dentist's permit, license, or both, or the dentist may be reprimanded or placed on probation.

15. Controlled pharmaceuticals.

- a. A dentist shall secure and maintain controlled pharmaceuticals in accordance with the state and federal guidelines.
- b. Used controlled pharmaceuticals or medications must be discarded immediately with documentation of disposal in conformance with drug enforcement administration guidelines.

History: Effective October 1, 1993; amended effective May 1, 1996; June 1, 2002; July 1, 2004; April 1, 2006; October 1, 2007; January 1, 2011; April 1, 2015; July 1, 2017; July 1, 2022; October 1, 2024. MONTH, DATE, 2026.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-01, 43-28-06, 43-28-15, 43-28-18.1

20-02-01-06. Continuing dental education for dentists.

Each dentist shall maintain documentation of attendance or participation in continuing clinical 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 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 for dentists is thirty-two. Of these hours, a dentist may earn no more than sixteen 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 or without the opportunity to interact in real-time with the proctor. A qualified professional may act as a proctor who oversees a clinical continuing education course which may be used for classroom style continuing education credits. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation courses must provide hands-on training. All other continuing education requirements may be satisfied from online education that allows for real-time interaction between attendees and the proctor. The continuing education must include:
 - a. At least two hours of ethics or jurisprudence. Passing the laws and rules examination is the equivalent of two hours of ethics or jurisprudence.
 - b. At least two hours of infection control. This requirement may be met by attending a federal occupational safety and health administration course for dental providers.
 - c. A cardiopulmonary resuscitation course.
 - d. For sedation and anesthesia permitholders:
 - (1) At least six hours related to sedation or anesthesia; and
 - (2) At least two hours related to anesthesia emergencies that are based on actual adverse anesthesia events or actual closed insurance claims. Content offered by

Commented [DS26]: Board agrees that online CE is important. And its rule already allows all CE to be completed online (just not all of it through 'canned' CE. So it is leaving the rule as-is per 8/1/2025 meeting.

Commented [DS27]: Per 8/1/2025 meeting, the Board seeks to retain this requirement; infection control reinforcement is important; CEs are easy to obtain. But adding the flexibility that OSHA training meets this requirement.

Commented [DS28]: Some suggestions seek elimination of this closed claim CE. In the alternative, they ask if fellow dentists can provide it.

The CE rules allow dentists to provide it by putting on board-approved CE. Revisions to clarify that.

insurance providers or licensees of the board, including dentists who hold sedation permits issued by the board, may meet this requirement upon approval ~~be approved~~ by the board.

Commented [DS29]: Per 8/1/2025 meeting, the Board approves this clarification. Sedation dentists, like all dentists, already can submit their own content to provide a CE, but they seem not to be fully aware of that.

- e. No more than two hours related to practice management or administrative aspects of dentistry.
4. Mere registration at a dental convention without specific attendance at continuing education presentations is not creditable toward the continuing dental education requirement. Certificates awarded for continuing education must indicate the name of the continuing education provider, date, and number of hours of continuing education. Certificates obtained from webinar courses must indicate the course was a webinar. For continuing education courses utilizing a proctor, the certificate of attendance must be signed by the proctor.
5. All dentists must hold a current cardiopulmonary resuscitation certificate. General anesthesia, deep sedation, and moderate sedation providers shall maintain current advanced cardiac life support or pediatric advanced life support certification as determined by the age of the patients treated. A dentist who utilizes minimal sedation shall maintain basic life support certification.
6. Effective January 1, 2028, all dentists who administer general anesthesia, deep sedation, and or moderate sedation shall successfully complete an approved anesthesia simulation training course within one year prior to or after this date and complete anesthesia simulation training successfully every five years thereafter. Proof of completion of this requirement must be submitted to the anesthesia inspector-site evaluator as required in subsection 5 of section 20-02-01-05.
7. The board may audit the continuing education credits of a dentist. 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. Failure to comply with the audit is grounds for nonrenewal of or disciplinary action against the license.
8. A dentist who maintains a license on inactive status is not subject to continuing education requirements.

History: Effective October 1, 1993; amended effective May 1, 1996; August 1, 1998; June 1, 2002; April 1, 2006; October 1, 2007; January 1, 2011; April 1, 2015; July 1, 2017; July 1, 2022; October 1, 2024 MONTH, DATE, 2026.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-06, 43-28-16.2

20-02-01-07. Removable dental prostheses owner identification.

1. Every complete upper and lower denture or removable dental prosthesis fabricated by a dentist or fabricated pursuant to the dentist's work order must be marked with the name of the patient for whom the prosthesis is intended. The markings must be done during the fabrication process and must be permanent, and cosmetically acceptable. The exact location of the markings and methods used to apply or implant them shall be determined by the dentist or dental laboratory fabricating the prosthesis. If in the professional judgment of the dentist or dental laboratory this identification is not practical, identification must be provided as follows:
 - a. The initials of the patient may be used if the entire name is not practical.
 - b. The identification marks may be omitted in their entirety if no form of identification is practical or clinically safe.
2. Failure of any dentist to comply with this section shall be deemed to be a violation of the rules of the board and the dentist may be liable to penalty as permitted under statute.

History: Effective October 1, 1993; amended effective April 1, 2006.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Commented [DS30]: Per 8/1/2025 meeting:

Board agrees with this date language revision per mtg 8/1/2025.

Board seeks to keep this rule in place for patient safety and dentist skill reinforcement. It is hoping the SIM training will grow more legs and make this easier to complete

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-06

20-02-01-08. Discontinuance of ~~the practice of dentist~~ - Retirement – Discontinuance- Termination of a dentist-patient relationship ~~treatment~~.

~~These rules are adopted for the purpose of avoiding practice abandonment. A licensed dentist shall maintain patient records in a manner consistent with the protection of the welfare of the patient. Upon request of the patient or patient's legal guardian, the dentist shall furnish the dental records or copies of the records, including dental radiographs or copies of the radiographs. The dentist may charge a nominal fee for duplication of records as provided by North Dakota Century Code section 23-12-14, but may not refuse to transfer records for nonpayment of any fees.~~

1. ~~A licensee, upon~~ Dentists who are either discontinuing the practice of dentistry or who are discontinuing practicing within a particular community must provide written notice explaining the extent of the discontinuation to their active patients retirement, or upon discontinuation of the practice of dentistry, or upon moving from a community. For the purpose of this section, "active patient" is defined as a person whom the licensee has examined, treated, cared for, or otherwise consulted with during the two-year period prior to the discontinuation or cessation of the practice of dentistry by the licensee.

a. ~~In the event no other dentist is assuming the practice, the discontinuing dentist shall notify provide notice to all active patients in writing and also provide advance notice by publication once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the community that the licensee dentist intends to discontinue the practice of dentistry. The licensee discontinuing dentist shall make reasonable arrangements with active patients for the transfer of patient records to other dentists, or copies thereof, to the succeeding licensee as requested by each patient. In the event no request for the transfer of records is made by a patient or the records are not provided directly to the patient, a discontinuing dentist shall have the ongoing obligation to maintain the patient records for at least two years in order to afford the active patients access to the records.~~

a.b. ~~In the event of a transfer of patient records to another licensee dentist is assuming the discontinuing dentist's practice, the discontinuing dentist or the assuming dentist must provide written notice must be furnished to all active patients explaining the discontinuance of practice; identifying the dentist who is assuming the practice; and explaining the extent to which active patient records are being transferred to the assuming dentist as hereinbefore specified. For the purpose of this section, "active patient" is defined as a person whom the licensee has examined, treated, cared for, or otherwise consulted with during the two-year period prior to the discontinuation of the practice of dentistry by the licensee. In the event of a nontransfer of records for any active patient, a discontinuing dentist licensee shall have the ongoing obligation of at least two years to afford the discontinuing dentist's licensee's prior active patients access to those records not previously provided to the patient.~~

2. In the event of termination of a dentist-patient relationship by a ~~licensee dentist~~, notice of the termination must be provided to the patient. A dentist-patient relationship exists if a dentist has provided treatment to a patient on at least one occasion within the preceding year. The dentist who is the owner or custodian of the patient's dental records shall mail notice of the termination of the dentist's relationship to the patient, which shall provide the following:

- a. The date that the termination becomes effective, and the date on which the dentist and patient relationship may resume, if applicable;
- b. A location at which the patient may receive emergency dental care for at least thirty days following the termination of the dentist and patient relationship;
- c. A statement of further dental treatment required, if any; and

Commented [DS31]: This section is cause for continuous calls, emails, and questions. Seeking to make it more clear without adding more rigor. Separating out the ideas by categories of dentists who are discontinuing. Also separating out the paragraph that relates to termination of dentist-patient relationship.

Board accepts/agrees with the many changes to this section per 8/1/2025 meeting.

Commented [DS32]: Board accepts/agrees with this change per 8/1/2025 meeting.

This paragraph relates to patient records and maintaining/releasing them. It fits more logically in the next section of law related to "patient records."

- d. The dentist shall respond to a written request to examine or copy a patient's record within ten working days after receipt. A dentist shall comply with North Dakota Century Code section 23-12-14 for all patient record requests.
- 3. If a ~~licensee-dentist~~ dies or becomes unable to practice dentistry due to disability, for the purpose of selling or otherwise disposing of the deceased or disabled ~~licensee's-dentist's~~ dental practice, a person who is not licensed to practice dentistry but who is the personal representative of the estate of a deceased dentist or the personal representative of a disabled dentist may contract with a dentist to manage the dental practice for a period not to exceed twenty-four months.
- 4. If a dentist agrees to provide dental care without remuneration to underserved patients in the absence of a public health setting, the patient may not be considered a patient of record of the dentist providing the donated dental service.
- 5. If a ~~licensee-dentist~~ ~~retires from who is a part of~~ a group practice ~~decides to discontinue practice dentistry~~ and continuity of patient dental care will not be interrupted, the dentist is exempt from notifying active patients in writing. The ~~licensee-dentist~~ shall, ~~however, still be obligated to~~ notify patients by publication once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of

general circulation in the community that the ~~licensee~~-dentist intends to discontinue the practice of dentistry.

History: Effective April 1, 2006; amended effective April 1, 2015; July 1, 2022, MONTH, DATE, 2026.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-06, 43-28-18

20-02-01-09. Patient records.

1. A dentist shall maintain a patient's dental records in a manner consistent with the protection of the welfare of the patient.
2. Dentists must release patient dental records within a reasonable time of request. Failure to do so can result in violations of North Dakota Century Code chapter 43-28 and section 23-12-14.
3. A dentist who fails to release dental records within ten days of receipt of the request shall provide a written statement detailing the cause of delay and an estimation of when records will be produced, to the patient or requester. Failure to provide the written statement may result in violations of subsection 23 of section 43-28-18 of the North Dakota Century Code.
4. The dentist may charge a nominal fee for duplication of records as provided by North Dakota Century Code section 23-12-14, but may not refuse to transfer records for nonpayment of any fees.
- 4-5. Dental records must be legible and include a chronology of the patient's progress throughout the course of all treatment and postoperative visits. All entries in the patient record must be dated, initialed, and handwritten in ink or computer printed. Digital radiographs must be transferred by compact or optical disc, electronic communication, or printing on high quality photographic paper. All transferred film or digital radiographs must reveal images of diagnostic quality using proper exposure settings and processing procedures. For purposes of this section:
- 2-6. "Patient" means an individual who has received dental care services from a provider for treatment of a dental condition.
- 3-7. "Dental record" or "patient's chart" means the detailed history of the physical examination, diagnosis, treatment, patient-related communications, and management of a patient documented in chronological order. The dental records ~~include must contain any document, charting, study models, doctor's notations, billing information, insurance document or combination of documents that pertains to a patient's medical history, diagnosis, prognosis, or medical condition, which is generated and maintained in the process of the patient's dental health care treatment, and any other materials as set forth in section 23 of North Dakota Century Code 43-28-18, and~~ the following components:
 - a. Personal data to include name, address, date of birth, name of patient's parent or guardian, name and telephone number of a person to contact in case of an emergency, and patient's insurance information.
 - b. Patient's reason for visit or chief complaint.
 - c. Dental and physical health history.
 - d. Clinical examination must include record of existing oral health status, radiographs used, and any other diagnostic aids used.
 - e. Diagnosis.
 - f. Dated treatment plan except for routine dental care, such as preventive services.
 - g. Informed consent must include notation of treatment options discussed with the patient,

Commented [DS33]: Board accepts/agrees with the changes to this full section per 8/1/2025 meeting.

Revising to meet SB 2217's changes on page 12, section 23.

Also, we've received input that some former dentist will not provide the patient with the records with relative ease (e.g., seeks certain forms, payments, timing, etc). This causes unnecessary delays.

including prognosis of the treatment plan, benefits and risks of each treatment, and documentation of the treatment the patient has chosen.

- h. Corrections of records must be legible, unless electronic and written in ink, and contain no erasures or use of "white-outs". If incorrect information is placed in the record, it must be crossed out with one single line and initialed by the dental health care worker.
- i. Progress notes must include a chronology of the patient's progress throughout the course of all treatment and postoperative visits of treatment provided; medications used and materials placed; the treatment provider by name or initials; name of collaborating dentist; administration information of nitrous oxide inhalation or any medication dispensed before, during, or after discharge, and patient status at discharge.
- j. Each patient shall have access to health provider information as it pertains to their treating doctor or potential doctors. Any entity utilizing telehealth shall provide upon request of a patient the name of the dentist, telephone number, practice address, and state license number of any dentist who was involved with the provision of services to a patient before or during the rendering of dental services.

8. "Retention of records" means a dentist shall retain a patient's dental record for a minimum of six years after the patient's last examination, prescription, or treatment. Records for minors shall be retained for a minimum of either one year after the patient reaches the age of eighteen or six years after the patient's last examination, prescription, or treatment, whichever is longer. Proper safeguards shall be maintained to ensure safety of records from destructive elements. The requirements of this rule apply to electronic records as well as to records kept by any other means, or maintained by any ownership entity as regulated under section 43-28-25.

4-9. "Billing information" as set forth in section 43-28-18 means records providing complete and accurate explanations of all dollar amounts assessed to the patient, the date the amount was assessed to the patient, and the date the assessed service was provided to the patient.

History: Effective April 1, 2006; amended effective January 1, 2011; July 1, 2022, MONTH, DATE, 2026.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-06, 43-28-18

20-02-01-10. Authorization of laboratory services.

A dentist using the services of any person, not licensed to practice dentistry in this state, to construct, alter, repair, or duplicate any orthodontic or prosthetic device, must furnish the unlicensed person a written prescription which shall include all of the following:

1. The name and address of the unlicensed person.
2. The patient's name or patient number.
3. The date on which the prescription was written.
4. The description of the work to be done, with a diagram, if necessary.
5. A specification of the materials to be used if necessary.
6. The signature of the dentist and the number of the dentist's North Dakota license.

The dentist shall retain a duplicate copy of the prescription for inspection by the board or the board's agent for two years.

History: Effective January 1, 2011.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-02, 43-28-06, 43-28-18, 43-28-25

20-02-01-11. Permit for the use of dermal fillers and botulinum toxin for dental use.

The rules in this chapter are adopted to define standards for the administration of dermal fillers and or botulinum toxin by a dentist if the use is limited to the practice of dentistry as defined in subsection 7 of North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-01. Notwithstanding a dentist who specializes in oral and maxillofacial surgery, the board may issue a permit to a dentist who applies on forms prescribed by the board and pays the initial fee or biennial renewal fee as required by subsection 1 of section 20-05-01-01 to administer botulinum toxin or dermal fillers for the purpose of functional, therapeutic, and aesthetic dental treatment purposes under the following conditions if the dentist provides evidence demonstrating one of the following:

1. The applicant has completed a course and received satisfactory training in a residency or other educational program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation of the American dental association;
2. The applicant successfully has completed a board-approved continuing education course of instruction within the previous three months of application which includes neurophysiology, including facial tissues, parasympathetic, sympathetic, and peripheral nervous systems relative

Commented [DS34]: Board approved/agrees per 8/1/2025 mtg.

Confirming that records maintained by any ownership entity must follow the same rules.

Commented [DS35]: Board approved/agrees per 8/1/2025 mtg.

We receive occasional input and complaints that a patient was billed for a service that was not provided. Defining this statutory term and obtaining the resulting records might better help the patient and board better understand these situations.

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

to the peri-oral tissue, and facial architecture, and:

- a. Patient assessment and consultation for botox ~~and~~or dermal fillers;

- b. Indications and contraindications for techniques;
 - c. Proper preparation and delivery techniques for desired outcomes;
 - d. Enhancing and finishing esthetic dentistry cases with dermal fillers;
 - e. Botulinum neurotoxin treatment of temporomandibular joint syndrome and bruxism;
 - f. Knowledge of adverse reactions and management and treatment of possible complications;
 - g. Patient evaluation for best esthetic and therapeutic outcomes;
 - h. Integrating botulinum neurotoxin and dermal filler therapy into dental therapeutic and esthetic treatment plans; and
 - i. Live patient hands-on training, including diagnosis, treatment planning, and proper dosing and delivery of botox and dermal fillers; or
3. The applicant successfully has completed a continuing education course of instruction substantially equivalent to the requirements of this state and provides evidence from another state or jurisdiction where the applicant legally is or was authorized to administer dermal fillers ~~and or~~ botulinum toxin.

History: Effective April 1, 2015; amended effective July 1, 2017; July 1, 2022; October 1, 2024.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 43-28-01, 43-28-06

20-02-01-12. Dental prescribers and use of the prescription drug monitoring program.

Subject to the exceptions described in section 20-02-01-13, prior to the initial prescribing of any controlled substance, including samples, a dentist authorized by the drug enforcement administration to prescribe, administer, sign for, dispense, or procure pharmaceuticals shall authorize an employee to review or personally request and review the prescription drug monitoring program report for all available prescription drug monitoring program data on the patient within the previous twelve months, and shall do all of the following:

- 1. Assess a patient's drug monitoring program data every twelve months during the patient's treatment with a controlled substance.
- 2. Review the patient's prescription drug monitoring program data if the patient requests early refills or demonstrates a pattern of taking more than the prescribed dosage.
- 3. Review the patient's prescription drug monitoring program data if there is a suspicion of or a known drug overuse, diversion, or abuse by the patient.
- 4. Document the assessment of the patient's prescription drug monitoring program data.
- 5. Discuss the risks and benefits of the use of controlled substances with the patient, the patient's parent if the patient is an unemancipated minor child, or the patient's legal guardian or health care surrogate, including the risk of tolerance and drug dependence.
- 6. Request and review prescription drug monitoring program data on the patient if the practitioner becomes aware that a patient is receiving controlled substances from multiple prescribers.

7. Request and review the patient's prescription drug monitoring program data if the prescriber has a reasonable belief that the patient may be seeking the controlled substance, in whole or in part, for any reason other than the treatment of an existing medical condition.

History: Effective July 1, 2017.

General Authority: NDCC 19-03.5-09, 43-28-01(7), 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 19-03.5-09, 43-28-06

20-02-01-13. Exceptions to the review requirement.

A practitioner may not be required to review a patient's prescription drug monitoring program data if any of the following apply:

1. The controlled substance is prescribed or dispensed for a patient who is currently receiving hospice care.
2. The controlled substance is prescribed or dispensed to a patient of record as a nonrefillable prescription as part of treatment for a surgical procedure.
3. The dentist prescribes a controlled substance after the performance of oral surgery and no more than a seventy-two hour supply of the controlled substance is prescribed.
4. The dentist prescribes pre-appointment medication for the treatment of procedure anxiety.
5. The dentist obtains a report through a board-approved risk assessment tool for health care providers that accesses patient prescription information from prescription drug monitoring program databases, analyzes the data, and provides a risk-based score that includes prescription drug monitoring program data.

History: Effective July 1, 2017.

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-01(7), 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 19-03.5-09, 43-28-06(1)

20-02-01-14. Supervision of externships.

The board may approve a dentist to supervise student externships as set forth in North Dakota Century Code under subsection two of section 43-28-02 provided the dentist meets all of the following requirements:

1. Has been licensed to practice dentistry for no less than **three / five years**.
2. Possesses a current license issued by the board.
3. Has actively practiced for at least five years preceding the application.
4. Maintains active practice and licensure in this state throughout all externships.
5. Provides documentation that the externship is conducted through a program accredited by the commission on dental accreditation, or a program approved by the board.
6. Grounds for denial of the applicant under section 43-28-18 do not exist.
7. Provides documentation evidencing the agreement or relationship between the dentist and the program. The documentation must provide details sufficient to allow the board to confirm public and patient safety is maintained, including the scope of the student's practice, the level of supervision to be provided by the dentist, and other relevant documentation as may be requested by the board.

Commented [DS36]: The Board discussed 3 years and 5 years as options. No consensus arrived at during 8/1 or 8/19 meeting.

History: Effective MONTH, DATE, 2026

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-01(7), 43-28-02, 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 19-03.5-09, 43-28-06(1)

20-02-01-15. Ownership of dental office practice or business.

1. Pursuant to subsection three of North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-25, it is a class A misdemeanor for any person except a dentist to own more than forty-nine percent of an office practice or business at which the practice of dentistry is performed. On or before June 30 of each year, any person having any ownership interest in such an office practice or business, other than a dentist, an entity wholly owned by a dentist, or an entity exempt from the ownership restrictions of subsection three of North Dakota Century Code section 43-28-25, must submit under penalty of perjury, annual statements setting forth a complete accounting of the valuations and the percentage of ownership of all:
 - a. Real property or leasehold interests at which the office practice or business is located.
 - b. Clinical and non-clinical equipment, hardware, software, and all other materials, regardless of where located, used by the office practice or business.
 - c. Any other information sought by the board.
2. To the extent a dentist submits a professional corporation annual report as required by the North Dakota office of the secretary of state, the dentist must timely submit a copy of the report to the board.

Commented [D537]: Board okayed this per 8/1/2025 meeting as a means of better implementing existing laws as to ownership and discussions that occurred related to SB 2217 and other Bills.

History: Effective MONTH, DATE, 2026

General Authority: NDCC 43-28-01(7), 43-28-02, 43-28-06

Law Implemented: NDCC 19-03.5-09, 43-28-06(1), 43-28-25