



EXPANDED FUNCTION DENTAL AUXILIARY—WHAT IS IT?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is an EFDA?

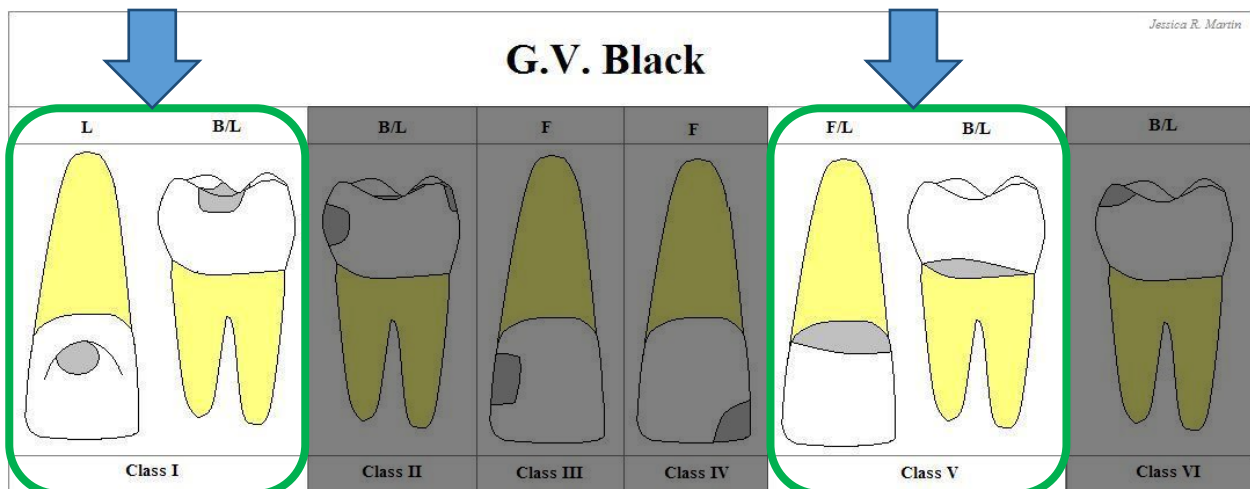
An EFDA is a licensed or registered dental professional who can deliver services in a variety of settings from private dental practices to schools and community dental clinics. Besides the tasks presently allowed, such as monitoring nitrous oxide, fluoride varnish, and sealant duties, the ND Board of Dental Examiners has promulgated rules which include additional new duties. Under the new rules, additional education and training specific to the new duty will be required. To become authorized to perform the new duties, the EFDA must successfully meet the requirements of the permit application.. No additional fees will be assessed by the Board.

Although the North Dakota Board of Dental Examiners recently approved expanding the scope of practice for the Registered Dental Assistant and Registered Dental Hygienist, the Board's action will not be final until approved by the Legislative Council's Administrative Rules Committee.

What duties could an EFDA perform in the State of North Dakota?

The Broader scope of practice for the ND Registered Dental Assistant include measures that may be provided in a public health setting such as, provide oral hygiene education and instruction, and provide an oral assessment for interpretation by a dentist.

The Board has approved duties that would authorize a Registered Dental Assistant under direct supervision to place, carve, and adjust supragingival Class I and V glass ionomer and amalgam restorations. This means that an EFDA will be able to place a filling and ensure that it doesn't interfere with the alignment of the other teeth in cavities as shown below. The EFDA will be able to use either a filling made from a tooth-colored material or a silver dental amalgam.





Class I	Found in pits and fissures of: occlusal surfaces of premolars and molars; buccal or lingual pits of the molars; lingual pit near the cingulum of the maxillary incisors.
Class V	Found on gingival third (the area near the gingiva) of the facial or lingual surfaces of any tooth.

The Board has approved duties that would authorize a Registered Dental Assistant under direct visual supervision or contiguous supervision (new definitions provided in rules) to provide anesthesia assistance to an oral and maxillofacial surgeon. An EFDA may also be authorized by permit to provide supragingival (above the gingiva) scaling; removal of build-up on the coronal surfaces of the teeth.



Scaling above the gums (supragingival).

Does an EFDA require extra education?

Yes. New proposed duties that would require a permit and additional training include supragingival scaling, anesthesia assistant duties, and restorative duties.

What duties could a registered dental assistant provide in a public health setting?

For the purposes of utilizing the dental assistants in public health settings such as schools, nursing homes, mobile dental health programs, Head Start programs and facilities where other vulnerable populations are targeted, new proposed rules include specific duties which may be provided in a public health setting under the general supervision of a dentist.

For more information, visit The Dale Foundation at <http://bit.ly/1g3XezD>.