

American Dental Association  
**Technical Report No. 1069**

# SCDI Standard Terms, Definitions and Acronyms

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*A Technical Report prepared by the American Dental Association and registered with ANSI.*

**ADA** American  
Dental  
Association®

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**AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL REPORT NO. 1069 FOR SCDI STANDARD  
TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

The Council on Dental Practice and Council on Scientific Affairs of the American Dental Association have approved American Dental Association Technical Report No. 1069 for SCDI Standard Terms, Definitions and Acronyms. Working Groups of the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI) and ADA Standards Committee on Dental Products (SCDP) formulate this and other specifications and technical reports for the application of information technology and other electronic technologies to dentistry's clinical and administrative operations. The ADA SCDI and SCDP have representation from appropriate interests in the United States in the standardization of information technology and other electronic technologies used in dental practice. The ADA SCDI confirmed approval of ADA Technical Report No. 1069 on January 7, 2015.

Publication of this technical report that has been registered with ANSI has been approved by the American Dental Association, 211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611. This document is registered as a technical report according to the *Procedures for the Registration of Technical Reports with ANSI*. This document is not an American National Standard and the material contained herein is not normative in nature. Comments on this document should be sent to the American Dental Association, 211 E. Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

The ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics thanks the members of Working Group 13.5 on Standard Terms and the organizations with which they were affiliated at the time the specification was developed:

Gary F. Guest (chairman), University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX; and  
Tom Drinkard, Comprehensive Dental Technologies, Inc., Atlanta, GA.

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DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS**

**FOREWORD**

(This Foreword does not form a part of ADA Technical Report No. 1069 for SCD Standard Terms, Definitions and Acronyms.)

In 1992, there was interest in the standardization of clinical information systems related to electronic technology in the dental environment. After evaluating current informatics activities, a Task Group of the ANSI Accredited Standards Committee MD156 (ASC MD156) was created by the ADA to initiate the development of technical reports, guidelines, and standards on electronic technologies used in dental practice. In 1999, the ADA established the ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI). The ADA SCDI is currently the group that reviews and approves proposed American National Standards (ANSI approved) and technical reports developed by the standards committee's working groups. The ADA became an ANSI accredited standards organization in 2000.

The scope of the ADA SCDI is:

*"The ADA SCDI shall develop informatics standards, technical reports and guidelines and interact with other entities involved in the development of health informatics standards aimed at implementation across the dental profession."*

This document was prepared by researching comparable terms, acronyms and definitions used or published by other health informatics Standards Developing Organization's (SDO) and selecting or modifying these to fit the needs of dental informatics standards. Individual terms, acronyms and definitions can then be used for the development of SCDI standards and technical reports.

The list of Acronyms, Descriptions, and Terms will continue to have additions as new technologies, new regulations and new knowledge about healthcare informatics are generated. In the reaffirmation process of this Technical Report the list will be expanded and / or edited to reflect the current terminology. Please send suggestions for additions of new terms and acronyms to [standards@ada.org](mailto:standards@ada.org).

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**SCOPE**

This technical report is an ADA SCDI (Standards Committee on Dental Informatics) reference document containing standardized terms, acronyms, and definitions for dental informatics.

**TERMS**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>ADA Standards Committee on Dental Informatics (SCDI)</b>	ANSI-accredited standards consensus body of the American Dental Association. The scope of the ADA SCDI is: The ADA SCDI shall develop informatics standards, technical reports and guidelines and interact with other entities involved in the development of health informatics standards aimed at implementation across the dental profession
<b>Standards Committee on Dental Products / (SCDP) **</b>	ADA committee accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for the purpose of coordinating dental standards development activities in the United States.(Formerly ASC MD 156).
<b>Advance Directive</b>	A healthcare proxy made by the care recipient.
<b>Agent</b>	Computer software constructed to operate with a degree of autonomy from its user, e.g., an agent may search the Internet for information based upon loose specifications provided by its use.
<b>Algorithm</b>	A set of instructions to programmatically carry out some task. In clinical practice, algorithms usually but not always, involve some form of numerical calculation.
<b>ANS</b>	American National Standard.
<b>Application</b>	Synonym for a computer program that carries out a specific type of task. Word-processors or spreadsheets are common applications available on personal computers.
<b>Architecture</b>	As used in information systems, the architecture is the high level or general overview of the system or system components, their function and external properties, and the relationships among these components.
<b>Attribute</b>	An attribute is a data model structure that represents a type of characteristic or property associated with an entity.
<b>Client</b>	A computer connected to a network that does not store all the data or software it uses, but retrieves it across the network from another computer that acts as a server.
<b>CD-ROM **</b>	Compact Disk – Read only memory. A class of storage media used in computers and other electronic devices.
<b>Client</b>	A computer connected to a network that does not store the data or all the software, but retrieves it from another computer, the server.
<b>Column</b>	A column is a structure found in physical data models or relational databases and is analogous to the attribute of logical data models.
<b>Concept Data Model</b>	A concept model is an abstract representation any subject that identifies the principal components and relationships while avoiding unnecessary or confounding detail and without