

Authority

This standard has been approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 31 March 2010 pursuant to the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (2009)* (the National Law) with approval taking effect from 1 July 2010.

Wording to appear on the register

Endorsed conscious sedation practitioner

Application

- Only registered dentists may apply for this endorsement.
- Dentist applicant would have a minimum of two years of general dental experience.

For those applicants who are approved to practice in this area by a State or Territory board prior to that jurisdiction becoming a participating jurisdiction under the National Law and who do not meet all this standards requirements, may apply for an approval for an extension of time to complete all requirements of the standard to practise conscious sedation. All requirements must be met under this application by 12 months after the date that the State or Territory became a participating jurisdiction.

This endorsement applies to conscious sedation only and does not include general anaesthesia or anxiolysis techniques. Relative analgesia using nitrous oxide on its own is excluded from this standard for all dental practitioners.

A dental care provider must not carry out any procedure forming part of the practice of dentistry on a patient to whom general anaesthetic has been administered, unless the general anaesthetic has been administered by a registered medical practitioner.

The endorsed registrant must ensure that he or she adheres to State and Territory jurisdictional requirements in addition to all relevant professional standards, guidelines and requirements approved by the Board.

Requirements

1. Dentist applicant would have a minimum of two years of general dental experience.
2. The minimum standard for endorsement would be a Graduate Diploma in Conscious Sedation from the Westmead Hospital, University of Sydney, or training from an alternative institution acceptable to the Board.

3. The endorsed dentist must ensure that he or she is current with all aspects of the guidelines and requirements of a body approved by the Board, including the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists.
4. To maintain this endorsement, the practitioner must provide documentation to the Board that they have attended courses in dental sedation and medical emergencies approved by the Board during a 12-month period.
5. A registered dentist must not administer sedation by the intravenous route unless the dentist:
 - a) has received appropriate training in techniques of intravenous sedation and resuscitation, as approved by the Board, and
 - b) is assisted by another person who is either:
 - a registered nurse who has received training in intensive care or anaesthesia, or
 - a registered dentist, appropriately trained in the observation and monitoring of sedated patients and in resuscitation, whose sole responsibility in assisting is to monitor the level of consciousness and cardiorespiratory function of the patient, and to administer resuscitation where necessary.

Exemptions

Dental Board of Australia: *Guidelines for Conscious Sedation* (to be drafted)

Definitions

Conscious sedation means a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.

General anaesthesia means a drug-induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is often impaired. Patients often require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function may be impaired.

Anxiolysis means a drug-induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands.

Dental Board of Australia

Registration standard for endorsement in relation to conscious sedation



Cognitive function and coordination may be impaired but spontaneous ventilation and cardiovascular functions are unaffected. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway, spontaneous ventilation or cardiovascular function.

Review

This endorsement will commence on 1 July 2010. The Board will review this endorsement within three years of operation.

