

NTEA ENDO FAX

Compliments of North Texas Endodontic Associates

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ENTERAL CONSCIOUS SEDATION GUIDELINES AND RULES

The ADA has adopted “*Guidelines of the use of Conscious Sedation, Deep Sedation and General Anesthesia for Dentists.*” Individual states use these guidelines as templates for their own rules and regulations concerning the use of these modalities by duly licensed dentists. According to these guidelines and rules, enteral conscious sedation is defined as a minimally depressed level of consciousness that retains the patient’s ability to independently and continuously maintain an airway and respond appropriately to physical stimulation or verbal command and that is produced by any technique of administration in which the pharmacologic agent is absorbed through the GI tract or oral mucosa (i.e. oral, rectal, or sublingual). Enteral conscious sedation is used primarily for behavioral management, and requires a permit issued by the TSBDE. A permit is not required when minor tranquilizers are used for anxiolysis administered outside the dental office. When enteral conscious sedation is administered in combination with nitrous oxide, both an enteral sedation permit and a nitrous oxide sedation permit is required.

An enteral sedation permit can only be obtained by a dentist who meets one or all of the following educational requirements: (1) Must have completed training consistent with Part I or Part III of the ADA “*Guidelines for Teaching the Comprehensive Control of Pain and Anxiety in Dentistry.*” (2) Must have completed an ADA accredited postdoctoral training program, which provides training in enteral conscious sedation. (3) Must have completed the conscious sedation course in Pediatric Dentistry approved by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry. (4) Must have completed the enteral conscious sedation course approved by the TSBDE.

An enteral sedation permit holder must meet certain requirements, including standard of care requirements, such as maintaining current basic life support certification for themselves and any auxiliary personnel assisting with enteral sedation procedures. Each permit holder must meet certain clinical requirements, such as performing a suitable pretreatment patient evaluation, providing a written informed consent, monitoring oxygenation using various methods including pulse oximetry, maintaining an appropriate time oriented anesthetic record, and providing written postoperative instructions.

A word about automated external defibrillators (AED’s). Defibrillators are not required for enteral sedation permit holders, and there is no move afoot to mandate them in the dental office. However, as AED’s have become increasingly available and more affordable, it would behoove all dentists to have these devices in both their primary and satellite offices. At present, one can go to almost any public venue and find an AED. When this is so, it is hard to justify the absence of one in a dentist’s office. An AED is money well spent!

The complete ADA guidelines and TSBDE rules and regulations concerning enteral sedation may be found at the following websites respectively: www.ada.org and www.tsbde.state.tx.us.

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