### Sedation Level Definitions

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| Minimal Sedation: a drug induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands. Although cognitive function and coordination may be impaired, ventilatory and cardiovascular functions are unaffected. | WAC 246-817-745  
- For a single oral agent, a dentist must have completed a course containing a minimum of fourteen hours of a predoctoral dental school, postgraduate instruction, or continuing education (as defined in WAC 246-817-440) in the use of oral agents;  
- For any oral agent in combination with a different agent or multiple agents other than nitrous oxide or injectable agents, a dentist must have completed a course containing a minimum of twenty-one hours of either predoctoral dental school or postgraduate instruction. | WAC 246-817-745  
A dentist who administers minimal sedation to patients must participate in seven hours of continuing education or equivalent every five years.  
- The education must include instruction in one or more of the following areas: Sedation; Physiology; Pharmacology; Nitrous oxide analgesia; Patient evaluation; Patient monitoring; and Medical emergencies;  
- Health care provider basic life support (BLS) or advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) must be taken in addition to the continuing education requirement; however, these continuing education credit hours may be used to meet the renewal requirements for the dental license. | no |
| Minimal sedation by inhalation (to include but not limited to nitrous oxide). | WAC 246-817-740  
Dentist must have completed a course containing a minimum of fourteen hours of either predoctoral dental school or postgraduate instruction in inhalation minimal sedation. | WAC 246-817-740  
A dentist who administers inhalation sedation to patients must participate in seven hours of continuing education or equivalent every five years.  
- The education must include instruction in one or more of the following areas: Sedation; Physiology; Pharmacology; Inhalation analgesia; Patient evaluation; Patient monitoring and medical emergencies;  
- Healthcare provider basic life support (BLS), or advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) training does not count towards this requirement; however, these continuing education credit hours may be used to meet renewal requirements for the dental license. | no |
| Moderate Sedation: a drug induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands and to light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained. Moderate sedation can include both moderate sedation/analgnesia (conscious sedation) and moderate sedation with parenteral agent*. See below for requirements with parenteral agents. | WAC 246-817-755  
Dentist must have completed a course containing a minimum of seven hours of a predoctoral dental school, postgraduate instruction, or continuing education (as defined in WAC 246-817-440) in moderate sedation in addition to twenty-one hours for minimal sedation. | WAC 246-817-755  
A dentist who administers moderate sedation to patients must participate in seven hours of continuing education or equivalent every five years.  
- The education must include instruction in one or more of the following areas: Sedation; Physiology; Pharmacology; Nitrous oxide analgesia; Patient evaluation; Patient monitoring and medical emergencies;  
- Healthcare provider basic life support (BLS), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) or pediatric advanced life support (PALS) training does not count towards this requirement; however, these continuing education credit hours may be used to meet renewal requirements for the dental license. | yes |
| Moderate sedation with parenteral* agents  
* 'Parenteral' means a technique of administration in which the drug bypasses the gastrointestinal (GI) tract (i.e., intramuscular, intravenous, intranasal, submucosal, subcutaneous, intraosseous). | WAC 246-817-760  
Dentist must have successfully completed a postdoctoral course(s) of sixty clock hours or more which includes training in basic moderate sedation, physical evaluation, venipuncture, technical administration, recognition and management of complications and emergencies, monitoring, and supervised experience in providing moderate sedation to fifteen or more patients.  
In addition to meeting the above criteria, the dentist must also have a current and documented proficiency in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) or pediatric advanced life support (PALS). | WAC 246-817-760  
A dentist who administers moderate parenteral sedation must participate in eighteen hours of continuing education or equivalent every three years.  
- The education must include instruction in one or more of the following areas: Venipuncture; Intravenous sedation; Physiology; Pharmacology; Nitrous oxide analgesia; Patient evaluation; Patient monitoring and medical emergencies;  
- Health care provider basic life support (BLS), advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) or pediatric advanced life support (PALS) must be taken in addition to the continuing education requirement; however, these continuing education credit hours may be used to meet the renewal requirements for the dental license. | yes |
General/Deep Sedation: is a drug induced depression of consciousness during which patients cannot be easily aroused but respond purposefully following repeated or painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function may be impaired. Patients may require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation may be inadequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.

Dentist must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Any provider currently permitted as of the effective date of this revision to provide deep sedation or general anesthesia by the state of Washington will be grandfathered regarding formal training requirements, provided they meet current continuing education and other ongoing applicable requirements.

- New applicants with anesthesia residency training will be required to have had two years of continuous full-time anesthesia training meeting the following requirements based on when they began their anesthesia training:
  - For dentists who began their anesthesia training prior to 2008, training must include two full years of continuous full-time training in anesthesiology beyond the undergraduate dental school level, in a training program as outlined in part 2 of "Guidelines for Teaching the Comprehensive Control of Anxiety and Pain in Dentistry," published by the American Dental Association, Council on Dental Education (last revised October 2005).
  - For dentists who began their anesthesia training in January 2008 or after, must have either received a certificate of completion:
    - From a dental anesthesiology program accredited by CODA (ADA Commission on Dental Accreditation, "Accreditation Standards for Advanced General Dentistry Education Programs in Dental Anesthesiology," January 2007); or
    - From a dental anesthesia program approved by the Dental Quality Assurance Commission; or
    - With a minimum of two years of full-time anesthesia residency training at a medical program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

- New applicants who completed residency training in oral and maxillofacial surgery must meet at least one of the following requirements:
  - Be a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery; or
  - Be a fellow of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons; or
  - Be a graduate of an Oral and Maxillofacial Residency Program accredited by CODA.

In addition to meeting one or more of the above criteria, the dentist must also have a current and documented proficiency in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS).

- Basic Life Support Requirement: WAC 246-817-720 - Dental staff providing direct patient care in an in-office or out-patient setting must hold a current and valid health care provider basic life support (BLS) certification. Dental staff providing direct patient care include: Licensed dentists, licensed dental hygienists, licensed expanded function dental auxiliaries, and registered dental assistants.

- Defibrillator Requirement: WAC 246-817-722 - Every dental office in the state of Washington that administers anesthesia must have an automatic external defibrillator (AED) or defibrillator. The dentist and staff must be prepared to use this equipment in an emergency.

- Other Equipment and Emergency Drug Requirements: WAC 246-817-724
  - Office facilities and equipment must include: Suction equipment capable of aspirating gastric contents from the mouth and pharynx; 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; Blood pressure cuff (sphygmomanometer) of appropriate size; Stethoscope or equivalent monitoring device.

  - The following emergency drugs must be available and maintained: Bronchodilator; Sugar (glucose); Aspirin; Antihistaminic; Coronary artery vasodilator; Anti-anaphylactic agent.

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