

South Carolina Board of Dentistry
Dental Sedation Act

Clarification

On January 1, 2015 the Dental Sedation Act, Article III of Chapter 15, Title 40, came into effect. The Board of Dentistry has clarified that all licensed dentists offering moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia to their patients, either through personal administration or utilizing licensed physician, certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), or dental anesthesiologist, must hold a valid Board-issued permit prior to rendering services. Licensed dentists providing moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia, must submit to the Board a completed application, fee, and required documentation.

Applicability

Dentists offering local anesthesia, nitrous oxide/oxygen, minimal sedation, or any combination thereof, do not need to submit an application for sedation permit to the Board per South Carolina Code § 40-15-400(A).

Dentists administering moderate sedation to their patients must meet the requirements outlined in South Carolina Code § 40-15-400(C) and/or (D). Dentists administering deep sedation/general anesthesia to their patients must meet the requirements outlined in South Carolina Code § 40-15-400(E) and/or (F). For a multi-practice office, each dentist offering sedation to their patients must submit an application for sedation permit.

Dentists offering moderate sedation, deep sedation, or general anesthesia to their patients through the administration by a licensed physician, certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), or dental anesthesiologist must meet the requirements outlined in South Carolina Code § 40-15-400(B)(2). For a multi-practitioner office, each dentist offering sedation to their patients must submit an application for sedation permit.

Dentists not offering moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia to patients are not required to submit an application for sedation permit. Dentists within a multi-practitioner office where moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia is offered, but have elected not to offer sedation to their patients, must be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and basic life support as required by South Carolina Code § 40-15-420(A).

Inspections

All facilities listed on the application for sedation permit must pass inspection prior to permit issuance. Once an application for sedation permit is approved, agency inspectors will be notified and the listed offices will be contacted for a scheduled inspection. All applicant facilities must meet the requirements as outlined in South Carolina Code § 40-15-410. Required equipment must be on-site at the time of

inspection and must remain at the facility during operation. Removal of equipment from the facility post-inspection may result in revocation of sedation permit and additional Board action. Additional equipment brought in by licensed professionals is allowed per the licensed individual's practice act and DHEC regulations.

Failure to pass the initial inspection will result in a re-inspection within thirty (30) days. Applicants who fail to pass the second inspection for non-compliance or exceed thirty (30) days, or require multiple rescheduling of an inspection greater than three (3) times, will be charged at a rate of \$75 per hour (including travel time) for each subsequent inspection.

Upon a passed inspection, Board staff will issue a sedation permit listing the permitted dentist(s). Sedation permits must be displayed in the facility's office. Dentists not listed on the sedation permit or practicing in facilities without a valid sedation permit may not offer sedation beyond local anesthesia, nitrous oxide/oxygen, minimal sedation, or any combination thereof. Licensed dentists found to be offering moderate sedation or deep sedation/general anesthesia without a valid sedation permit will be subject to Board action.

Applications

Applications and facility checklists can be found on the Board website at www.llr.sc.gov/bod.