

# **SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DENTISTRY**

## **POLICY / PROCEDURE**

### **CERTIFICATION FOR MONITORING OF NITROUS OXIDE SEDATION**

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 40-15-105

#### **POLICY**

S.C. Code Ann. Section 40-15-105 authorizes a dental hygienist or expanded duty dental assistant to monitor nitrous oxide anesthesia (conscious sedation) “upon certification, as provided by the board in regulation, and when under the direct supervision of a licensed dentist.” To reasonably assure that dental hygienists or expanded duty dental assistants monitoring nitrous oxide sedation have received appropriate professional training, this Board has been delegated responsibility for reviewing and approving courses and other training. The Board will review on a case by case basis all courses submitted for approval for this purpose.

#### **PROCEDURE**

##### **Course Approval**

Course sponsors requesting Board approval must provide staff with all documentation requested by the Board including, but not limited to: (1) a description of the faculty and their professional qualifications; (2) the location(s) for the course and equipment to be used in training; (3) the maximum class size(s); (4) the dates, times, and fees to be charged; (5) a detailed course outline; (6) a copy of any handouts or other materials to be distributed to attendees; (7) a copy of any textbooks or publications used as primary course materials or a bibliography of supporting authorities, and (8) a copy of a test on which attendees will be tested for proficiency at the conclusion of the course of instruction. If a test has not yet been devised and a copy made available for review, a list of topics on which attendees will be tested for proficiency at the conclusion of the course of instruction must be provided. Staff will safeguard the confidentiality of and access to tests submitted by course sponsors. Additional information requested by the Board must be promptly provided by the course sponsor for the Board’s review and consideration. Approval of the course shall be in the form of a letter from the Board administrator. If any substantive changes are proposed once a course has been approved, such proposal shall be submitted to the Board for review and approval. The administrator will provide sponsors of courses that are not approved with a letter so advising of the Board’s decision and relating any comments from the Board regarding deficiencies noted.

##### **Applications for Certification**

Applicants may apply for certification to monitor nitrous oxide conscious sedation, provided they meet the following requirements:

- (1) must hold a current license to practice dental hygiene in S.C. or qualify as an “expanded duty dental assistant” in accordance with Board Reg. 39-13;
- (2) must be currently certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) at the time they file an application;
- (3) must have successfully completed an approved course in nitrous oxide monitoring within the past three years; or been certified in another state to monitor nitrous oxide sedation within the past three years, and
- (4) must successfully complete the State Board Nitrous Oxide Monitoring Examination.

Applicants who qualify and have current CPR certification shall document satisfactory completion of an approved training course and exit examination upon an application form

approved by the Board with proper payment of any fee required to cover the administration of the certification program. Upon receipt of a satisfactory application and required fee, the Board of Dentistry shall issue an appropriate certificate to the applicant authorizing the monitoring of nitrous oxide sedation when under the direct supervision of a practicing dentist.

**Renewal of Certificate**

There is no requirement for renewal of the nitrous oxide monitoring certificate.