

FAQ – SEDATION STANDARDS



Status:	Approved
Approved by Council:	May 2022
Amended:	February 2024
To be Reviewed:	May 2027

CDSS STANDARD FAQ

- **Please clarify the necessity of using a pulse oximeter during nitrous oxide sedation. What does one provider mean? Does every case require a pulse oximeter?**
A pulse oximeter is required during nitrous sedation when there is a single operator with no assistant. For example, a dentist and an assistant would not need pulse oximetry, however a dentist or therapist alone would need to use a pulse oximeter.
- **Can dental therapists be left alone to work on a patient after the administration of nitrous oxide by a dentist?**
Dental therapists can be left alone with a patient using nitrous sedation as long as there is a dentist (or another provider as outlined) in the office providing supervision.
- **Can dental therapists administer nitrous oxide alone to their patients while a dentist is out of the office?**
No, they cannot.
- **Is it expected to take blood pressure for children of all ages while using nitrous?**
It is recommended ASA 2 patients and required in ASA 3 patients.
- **Are there CE requirements to keep using nitrous oxide sedation? If so, how often?**
There are no CE requirements to maintain the ability to provide minimal sedation. It is strongly encouraged that CDSS members providing minimal sedation keep up to date with current practice standards and methods.
- **Will the CDSS be providing a list of approved programs for each level of sedation?**
It is the responsibility of the CDSS member to obtain the outlined requirements to be approved for their sedation permit. If required, the CDSS may contact programs to ensure the training is sufficient for the CDSS Sedation Standard.
- **If there is a dental assistant in the room who has no formal sedation training, does this still count as a single provider?**
This is not considered a single provider as they are monitoring the patient and not performing treatment assuming the other person is the dentist treating the patient.
- **I graduated from an accredited GPR program where I provided multiple intravenous sedations. What is necessary to credential myself for parental moderate sedation?**
You must submit your GPR certificate, the contact information for your program director at the time, and the sedation records for at minimum 15 patients you have treated with this sedation modality. If records are unavailable, discussion with the program director regarding the sedation training is required.
- **I was previously concerned with the timeframe of which the new sedation guidelines would be implemented. What is the start date for the updated CDSS sedation standard?**

The start date is January 01/2023.

- **Is there a timeline on how often BLS, PALS and ACLS recertification is required?**
Please check with heart and stroke foundation for how often recertification needs to occur.
- **I graduated from the U of S College of Dentistry prior to and including 2023, am I authorized to provide nitrous sedation or minimal oral sedation?**
Yes.
- **I graduated from the U of S College of Dentistry after 2023, am I able to provide nitrous sedation or minimal oral sedation?**
No. A graduate from the U of S College of Dentistry during or after 2024 requires a CDSS approved continuing education course to be authorized to provide nitrous sedation or minimal oral sedation.
- **I graduated from the Dalhousie College of Dentistry 5 years ago. I was not formally taught nitrous sedation. Am I able to provide nitrous sedation?**
You are unable to provide nitrous sedation until the prerequisites as outlined on page 17 are completed. The CDSS will be providing a nitrous sedation course every year to allow for members to fulfill these requirements. Furthermore, additional courses are available that would fulfill these requirements. Please check with the CDSS if the course you plan to attend fulfills the requirements.
- **What if the patient receives their oral sedative from their physician? Does it count towards the administration of sedation for dental purposes?**
It is the responsibility of the treating CDSS member to be aware of all medications the patient is taking prior to the appointment. Regardless of the prescribing physician, any sedative medication taken by the patient prior to the appointment for anxiolysis/sedative purposes applies to depth of sedation.
- **I have been providing nitrous oxide and oral sedation to my patients throughout my career, but I previously have not taken a formal course on providing moderate sedation, am I still able to provide this type of treatment?**
You are unable to provide moderate sedation without taking a formal CE course which teaches moderate sedation, airway management, and examines the competency of the candidate. If you have previously taken a course which meets the above conditions, please show documentation of this during the application process.