



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

MEMO

6 Crescent Road
Toronto, ON Canada M4W 1T1
T: 416.961.6555 F: 416.961.5814
Toll-Free: 800.565.4591 www.rcdso.org

TO: Ontario Dentists
and Key Stakeholders

FROM: Irwin W. Fefergrad, Registrar

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009

**RE: Guidelines for the Use of Sedation and General Anaesthesia
in Dental Practice**

Council gave final approval to the revised Guidelines on the Use of Sedation and General Anaesthesia in Dental Practice at its May 14, 2009 meeting. The Guidelines are now available on the College's website at www.rcdso.org and are effective immediately.

The revised Guidelines incorporate changes that were made in response to comments and suggestions submitted by members and stakeholders following circulation of the draft document in late 2008.

New Requirements

- Facility Permits are now required for the administration of oral moderate sedation.
- Gas analyzers are now required for certain general anaesthetic techniques.

Additional Changes

- For minimal sedation only – Registered Practical Nurses (RPN) may now administer nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation.
- Sedation equipment and emergency drugs have been updated and are now set out separately for most modalities.

If you have any questions or concerns about the revised Guidelines, please contact:

Dr. Michael Gardner
Manager, Quality Assurance
416-934-5611 1-800-565-4591 mgardner@rcdso.org

(continued)

Facility Permits are now required for the administration of oral moderate sedation

All dentists who wish to treat patients using the oral administration of multiple sedative drugs, with or without nitrous oxide and oxygen, must now register with the College and obtain a facility permit.

In addition, all dentists who intend to achieve moderate sedation using any modality of conscious sedation, including the oral administration of a single sedative drug, with or without nitrous oxide oxygen, must adhere to the Guidelines for moderate sedation. This includes the professional responsibilities of registering with the College and obtaining a facility permit.

All dentists currently administering oral moderate sedation must now register with the College and apply for a facility permit no later than **December 31, 2009**.

The granting of a facility permit is subject to training and conformance with all aspects of the Guidelines, as well as satisfactory on-site inspections and evaluation by the College.

The Guidelines describe the training required to administer oral moderate sedation. The Guidelines also contain a provision whereby dentists whose prior training is not as described, but who have been practising this modality for some time and can demonstrate that they have successfully completed an appropriate course in airway management, may submit their qualifications and experience in writing to the College for consideration.

Registration Form/Facility Permit Application Form

The Registration Form and Facility Permit Application Form can be found on our website at www.rcdso.org. Please complete the forms and submit them to the College either by fax or mail to the attention of:

Stephanie Bickford
Administrative Assistant, Registration
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario
6 Crescent Road
Toronto, ON M4W 1T1
416-961-6555, ext. 4325 F: 416-922-1507

If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact Stephanie Bickford at 416-961-6555 to request a hard copy of the forms.

Training/Qualifications – oral moderate sedation

If you have specific questions regarding your training/qualifications as it relates to oral moderate sedation, please contact:

Dr. Michael Gardner
Manager, Quality Assurance
416-934-5611 1-800-565-4591 mgardner@rcdso.org

Gas analyzers are now required for certain general anaesthetic techniques

For certain general anaesthetic techniques, clinical observation of patients must now be supplemented by the following additional means of monitoring:

- if intubated or a laryngeal mask airway is used, monitoring by oxygen analyzer is now required.
- if a volatile inhalational anaesthetic agent is used to maintain anaesthesia (e.g. isoflurane, sevoflurane, desflurane), an anaesthetic agent analyzer is now required.

All facilities employing the above-noted techniques to administer general anaesthesia must now obtain appropriate gas analyzers no later than **December 31, 2009**.

For minimal sedation only – Registered Practical Nurses (RPN) may now administer nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation

For minimal sedation only, a nurse currently registered with the College of Nurses of Ontario in the general class in the RPN category may now administer nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation. With respect to appropriate training, the RPN must have obtained a two-year diploma in Practical Nursing from a Community College of Applied Arts or completed an enhanced medication course in the administration and monitoring of minimal sedation.

An RPN may now administer nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation, under the required order of an appropriately trained dentist, provided that:

- an appropriately trained dentist is present at all times in the office suite and immediately available in the event of an emergency;
- nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation has been previously administered for the patient by the dentist; and
- appropriate dosage levels have been previously determined and recorded by the dentist in the patient record.

Sedation equipment and emergency drugs updated and are now set out separately for most modalities

For clarity, the required sedation equipment and emergency drugs have been updated and are now set out separately for most modalities, including the oral administration of a single sedative drug, the oral administration of a single sedative drug with nitrous oxide and oxygen, and the oral administration of multiple sedative drugs, with or without nitrous oxide and oxygen.

All dentists who wish to treat patients using sedation and/or general anaesthesia should review the revised Guidelines in their entirety. They are available on the College's website at www.rcdso.org.