

Registration standard: Endorsement for conscious sedation

Effective from: 27 October 2015

This registration standard sets out the minimum requirements of the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) for endorsement of registration for conscious sedation.

Does this standard apply to me?

This standard applies to applicants for endorsement and those applying for renewal of endorsement.

What activities does this standard apply to?

This endorsement applies only to conscious sedation.

What activities are not covered by this standard?

This endorsement does not apply to:

- general anaesthesia
- anxiolysis techniques where the state of conscious sedation is not achieved, or
- relative analgesia using nitrous oxide/oxygen, on its own or when used in combination with local anaesthetic where the state of conscious sedation is not achieved.

What must I do?

Requirements for applying for endorsement

1. To meet this registration standard, you must:
 - a. be a dentist and/or a dental specialist registered with the Board
 - b. have a minimum of two years of general dental experience (this may include experience outside Australia, subject to assessment and approval by the Board), and
 - c. have completed an approved program of study or another qualification that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved qualification. The Board's website contains information on approved programs of study.

Requirements for practice

2. As a dentist and/or dental specialist with an endorsement for conscious sedation on your registration (endorsed dentist), you must:
 - a. ensure that you are up to date with all other guidelines and regulatory requirements, such as relevant documents produced by the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists or other documents approved by the Board
 - b. provide documentation to the Board that you have successfully completed Board approved and competency based courses in dental sedation and medical emergencies in each 12 month registration period in order to maintain endorsement. The Board's website contains information on competency based training courses approved by the Board.

3. In your practice as an endorsed dentist, you must not administer sedation by the intravenous route unless you:
 - a. have received appropriate Board approved training in intravenous sedation and resuscitation techniques, and
 - b. are assisted by another person throughout the entire procedure who is either:
 - i. a **registered dentist or dental specialist appropriately trained** in the observation and monitoring of sedated patients and resuscitation, whose sole responsibility in assisting is to monitor the patient's level of consciousness and cardio respiratory function
 - ii. a **registered medical practitioner appropriately trained** in the observation and monitoring of sedated patients and resuscitation, whose sole responsibility in assisting is to monitor the patient's level of consciousness and cardio respiratory function
 - iii. a **registered nurse (Division 1)** who has received training in intensive care or anaesthesia, or
 - iv. a **registered enrolled nurse (Division 2)** who:
 - is educated, trained and competent in the administration of intravenous medications venipuncture and cannulation, and
 - has also successfully completed post graduate qualifications in anaesthetic nursing at an advanced diploma level or equivalent courses (with appropriate supporting documentation) and has extensive experience in operating theatre and/or anaesthetic nursing.
4. When the dental procedure is being undertaken by another registered dentist or dental specialist and your sole role as an endorsed dentist is to provide and monitor the sedation, there is no requirement for an additional registered health practitioner.
5. You may be audited for compliance with these requirements. As a dental practitioner you are responsible for providing evidence of compliance when requested by the Board.
6. You must adhere to state and territory legislation and regulations in addition to all relevant professional standards, guidelines and requirements approved by the Board.
7. You must not carry out any dentistry procedure on a patient to whom general anaesthetic has been administered, unless the general anaesthetic has been administered by a registered medical practitioner.
8. You must have medical emergency equipment, protocols and procedures set out in practice manuals which are readily accessible by all staff. Where there is a legislative requirement in the state or territory for a manual for this purpose then this will meet the requirements of the Board.
9. The administration of medication for conscious sedation may be by any accepted route approved for that specific use by relevant authorities, such as oral, inhalation and intravenous inductions. The prescription and use of medications are regulated by a number of government authorities.

What does this mean for me?

When you apply for registration

When you apply for endorsement for conscious sedation on your registration, you must meet this registration standard.

When you apply for renewal

When you apply to renew your registration, you are required to declare whether you comply with this registration standard.

You will be required to provide documentation to the Board that you have successfully completed Board approved and competency based courses in dental sedation and medical emergencies in each 12 month registration period in order to maintain endorsement. The Board's website contains information on competency based training courses approved by the Board.

During the registration period

Your compliance with this registration standard may be audited from time to time. It may also be checked if the Board receives a notification about you.

Evidence

You should retain records as evidence that you meet the requirements of this standard for five years in case you are audited.

Wording on the register

The following wording will appear on the public register for dental practitioners whose registration is endorsed: Endorsed conscious sedation practitioner.

What happens if I don't meet this standard?

The National Law establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this standard, including that:

- the Board can refuse an application for endorsement or renewal of endorsement when the applicant does not meet a requirement in an approved registration standard for the profession (sections 82 and 112 of the National Law), and
- registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against you as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice (section 41 of the National Law).

Authority

This registration standard was approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council on 27 August 2015.

Registration standards are developed under section 38 of the National Law and are subject to wide ranging consultation.

Definitions

Anxiolysis includes minimal sedation through single low dose oral or inhalation-type medications for treating anxious patients, but not inducing a state of conscious sedation. Appropriate initial dosing of a single enteral drug should be no more than the maximum recommended dose of a drug that can be prescribed for unmonitored home use. Minimal sedation does not include polypharmacy.

Approved program of study means an accredited program of study approved by the Board under section 49(1) of the National Law and included in the list published under section 49(5) of the National Law.

Conscious sedation is defined¹ as a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients are able to respond purposefully to verbal commands or light tactile stimulation. Interventions to maintain a patent airway, spontaneous ventilation or cardiovascular function may, in exceptional circumstances, be required. Conscious sedation may be achieved by a wide variety of drugs including propofol, and may accompany local anaesthesia. All conscious sedation techniques should provide a margin of safety that is wide enough to render loss of consciousness unlikely.

Endorsement refers to the provisions of the National Law (sections 15 and 98) that permit the Ministerial Council, on the recommendation of a National Board, to approve an area of practice for

¹ Defined in *Guidelines on Sedation and/or Analgesia for Diagnostic and Interventional Medical, Dental or Surgical Procedures* (PS09 2014) Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA)

which the registration of a health practitioner registered in the profession may be endorsed. Section 98 of the National Law provides that the Board may:

- (1) *... in accordance with an approval given by the Ministerial Council under section 15, endorse the registration of a registered health practitioner registered by the Board as being qualified to practise in an approved area of practice for the health profession if the practitioner—*
 - (a) *holds either of the following qualifications relevant to the endorsement—*
 - (i) *an approved qualification;*
 - (ii) *another qualification that, in the Board's opinion, is substantially equivalent to, or based on similar competencies to, an approved qualification; and*
 - (b) *complies with an approved registration standard relevant to the endorsement.*
- (2) *An endorsement under subsection (1) must state—*
 - (a) *the approved area of practice to which the endorsement relates; and*
 - (b) *any conditions applicable to the practice by the registered health practitioner in the approved area of practice.*

General anaesthesia means a drug-induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is often impaired. Patients often require assistance in maintaining a patient airway, and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function may be impaired.

National Law means the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as in force in each state and territory.

Polypharmacy is the combination of two or more drugs and includes all drugs which singly result in minimal sedation.

Review

This registration standard will be reviewed from time to time as required. This will generally be at least every five years. The Board will monitor the appropriateness of this timeframe and review the standard earlier if the need arises.

Last reviewed: 27 October 2015

This standard replaces the previously published registration standard from 1 July 2010.