

ENTRY-LEVEL COMPETENCIES: CONSCIOUS SEDATION ENDORSEMENT

This document is provided by the Dental Board of Australia (the Board) to describe the entry-level competencies expected of applicants for endorsement of registration in the conscious sedation area of practice.

Dentists who apply for endorsement of registration for conscious sedation will already have the competencies of a graduate dentist which are outlined in the [Australian Dental Council's \(ADC\) *Professional competencies of the newly qualified dentist*](#).

Graduate endorsed conscious sedation dentists are expected to have the entry-level competencies for endorsed conscious sedation dentist **in addition** to the competencies of a graduate dentist.

Domains

The five domains of the competency document are based on the domains listed in the Professional Attributes and Competencies of the Newly Qualified Dentist developed by the ADC.

The domains represent the broad categories of professional activity that occur in the conscious sedation area of practice. Professional practice requires the integration of multiple competencies across all of the domains.

The domains are:

1. **Professionalism:** On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will have the knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, expert judgment, adaptability and responsibility as a practitioner.
2. **Communication and social skills:** On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will be able to interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to dental and non-dental audiences.
3. **Critical thinking:** On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will have the expert, cognitive and technical skills in a body of knowledge or practice to independently analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and research and apply established theories to a body of knowledge or practice.
4. **Scientific and clinical knowledge:** On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will have a body of knowledge that includes the extended understanding of recent developments in this area of practice and its professional practice, as well as knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to this area of practice and its professional practice.
5. **Patient care:** On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will, with a high level of personal autonomy and accountability, be able to apply highly specialised knowledge and skills within this area of practice. This includes clinical information gathering, diagnosis and management planning, clinical treatment and evaluation.

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Definitions

The Endorsement for conscious sedation registration standard provides the following definitions:

Conscious sedation¹ is 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.

Conscious sedation is a specific dental procedure that is part of procedural sedation.

Endorsement refers to the provisions of the National Law² (sections 15 and 98) that permit the Ministerial Council, on the recommendation of a National Board, to approve an area of practice such as conscious sedation. 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.

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).

² The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

Table of competencies expected of a graduate endorsed conscious sedation dentist

Domain	Competencies
<p>1. Professionalism</p> <p>On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will have the knowledge and skills to demonstrate autonomy, expert judgement, adaptability and responsibility as a practitioner.</p>	<p>A graduate endorsed conscious sedation dentist is expected to be competent in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> recognising personal limitations and scope of the endorsement and knowing when to refer or seek advice appropriately based on individualised patient risk assessment for conscious sedation and incorporating local referral arrangements understanding and applying the moral, cultural, ethical principles and legal responsibilities involved in the provision of conscious sedation as part of dental care to individual patients, communities and populations understanding and applying of legislation relevant to practice as an endorsed dentist using a system approach to safety and quality in health care understanding regulatory requirements relevant to conscious sedation, and recognising the importance of continuing professional development relevant to the endorsement.
<p>2. Communication and social skills</p> <p>On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will be able to interpret and transmit knowledge, skills and ideas to dental and non-dental audiences.</p>	<p>A graduate endorsed conscious sedation dentist is expected to be competent in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> identifying and understanding a patient's expectations, desires and attitudes when planning and delivering treatment under conscious sedation communicating effectively with patients, their families, relatives and carers in a manner that takes into account factors such as their age, intellectual development, social and cultural background and relevant to the endorsement incorporate the elements of shared decision-making when developing an individualised conscious sedation plan with patients, families, relatives and carers interpreting and communicating knowledge, skills and ideas to the dental team and other health professionals, including communicate an individualised sedation plan to the patient, team members and other health professionals, and providing pre and post-operative instructions to a patient or carer with regard to sedative techniques.
<p>3. Critical thinking</p> <p>On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will have the expert, cognitive and technical skills in a body of knowledge or practice to independently analyse critically, reflect on and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and research and apply established theories to a body of knowledge or practice.</p>	<p>A graduate endorsed conscious sedation dentist is expected to be competent, relevant to conscious sedation, in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> critically evaluating scientific research and literature, products and techniques to inform evidence-based practice synthesizing complex information, problems, concepts and theories, and c.developing and embracing evidenced-based and team centered management, and algorithmic approaches to emergency management.

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Domain	Competencies
<p>4. Scientific and clinical knowledge</p> <p>On graduation an endorsed conscious sedation dentist will have a body of knowledge that includes the extended understanding of recent developments in this area of practice and its professional practice, as well as knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to this area of practice and its professional practice.</p>	<p>A graduate endorsed conscious sedation dentist is expected to be competent in the knowledge of, relevant to conscious sedation, the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> historical and contemporary literature scientific basis of conscious sedation including the relevant biological, medical and psychosocial sciences preoperative patient assessment techniques different states of altered consciousness as with conscious sedation the limitations and risks of the various techniques used to induce conscious sedation appropriate use in the clinical setting of various techniques used to induce conscious sedation pharmaceutical agents relevant to conscious sedation, the various routes of administration, reversal and the management of side effects pre eminent place of non technical skills and human factors in preventing and managing emergencies management of acute medical emergencies, including cardiac arrest, collapse, anaphylaxis and other medical emergencies in a clinical setting relevant equipment used in monitoring and management of medical emergencies in a clinical setting the recovery and discharge criteria for a patient who has undergone conscious sedation, and relevant regulations, policies and guidelines.
<p>5. Patient care</p> <p>On graduation a dental specialist will, with a high level of personal autonomy and accountability, be able to apply highly specialised knowledge and skills within a discipline or professional practice. This includes clinical information gathering, diagnosis and management planning, clinical treatment and evaluation.</p>	<p>A graduate endorsed conscious sedation dentist is expected to be competent, relevant to conscious sedation, in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> selecting appropriate patients and patient-specific procedures obtaining and recording patient informed consent for the use of conscious sedation performing a preoperative patient assessment various techniques used in the clinical setting to induce conscious sedation administering advanced forms of local analgesia administering pharmaceutical agents used across all routes of administration including management of side effects use and management of all forms of relevant equipment used in the monitoring and management of medical emergencies in a clinical setting displaying high level, acute crisis management in emergencies managing acute medical emergencies including cardiac arrest, collapse, anaphylaxis and other medical emergencies in the dental surgery, and managing the post-operative needs and discharge of their patients.