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Policy/procedure certification for administration of nitrous oxide sedation pursuant to S.C. code ann. section 40-15-105 and Regs 39-12, 39-13 and 39-14

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South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



Board of Dentistry

110 Centerview Drive
Post Office Box 11329
Columbia, SC 29211-1329
Phone: (803) 896-4599
FAX: (803) 896-4719

Henry D. McMaster
Governor

Emily H. Farr
Director

POLICY/ PROCEDURE

CERTIFICATION FOR MONITORING OF NITROUS OXIDE SEDATION

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 40-15-105 and Regs 39-12, 39-13 and 39-14

POLICY

Licensed Dental Hygienists and Expanded Duty Dental Assistants are authorized to monitor nitrous oxide conscious sedation (analgesia) upon:

- 1) Successful completion of a Board-approved course;
- 2) Application to the Board
- 3) Successful completion of the State Board Examination
- 4) Certification by the Board.

NOTE: The Board has defined the term "Monitor" to mean carrying out the orders of the dentist, to include the initiation of the flow of the nitrous oxide component. The certified auxiliary may then maintain that flow or decrease the level of nitrous oxide component when oxygenating the patient, without the specific direction of the dentist. The dentist must determine the need and level of nitrous oxide sedation regarding a particular patient. The dentist must diagnose the need for a patient to receive nitrous oxide and may designate the certified auxiliary to place the mask and set the nitrous oxide component at a level specified for that patient.

PROCEDURE

Board Approved Courses

Applicants must provide a copy of the official diploma certificate showing course completion date. Proof of course completion is to be submitted with application for certification. See [Board Licensure Requirements](#) webpage for current listing of Board approved courses.

Applications for Certification

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

- 1) You must be currently:
 - Licensed SC Dental Hygienist; or
 - Expanded Duty Dental Assistant
- 2) You must be currently certified in CPR.
- 3) You must have successfully completed
 - an approved course in nitrous oxide monitoring within the three (3) years preceding the application; or
 - certified in another state to monitor nitrous oxide within three (3) years preceding the application.

Once a completed application has been received and approved, applicants will be authorized to take the examination. The examination is administered by PSI Testing Service. Applicants will not be authorized to take the exam until a complete application is on file.

Certification Examination

Applicants will receive notification from PSI when they are authorized to register for the examination. Applicants are responsible for registering and scheduling with PSI. The examination registration fee is to be paid directly to PSI upon registration.

PSI will send examination score reports directly to the Board office. Please do not send your score report to the Board office. Applicants who fail the examination may retake the exam up to two (2) times.

An applicant who fails to achieve a passing grade after three (3) attempts must complete another Board approved course in nitrous oxide monitoring prior to being eligible for reapplication.

Certification Issuance

Upon successful completion of the exam, the applicant will be issued a Certificate to Monitor Nitrous Oxide.

Renewal of Certificate

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

Approved by the Board: April 9, 2021