

Administration of Anesthetic Agents for Dental Procedures

The Dental Quality Assurance Commission amended the administration of anesthetic agents for dental procedures rules January 11, 2024. The changes include:

- Creating a pediatric sedation endorsement,
- Includes 24 hour on-call availability,
- Updates to basic life support education,
- Adds requirements for emergency protocols and training,
- Clarifies record keeping and emergency medications,
- Updates CE requirements,
- Establishes self-inspections for all dentists when anesthetic is administered,
- Updates on-site inspections for dentists with moderate sedation with parenteral agents and general anesthesia permits, and
- Updates vital sign monitoring requirements.

The rules are effective January 11, 2024. There is one exception: pediatric endorsement is not in effect until January 1, 2025.

WAC 246-817-720 Basic Life Support Requirements

- Can I take my BLS training online?
No, initial and renewal certification must include both didactic and hands-on components. BLS instruction must include an in-person skills assessment.

WAC 246-817-722 Defibrillator

- I provide local anesthesia. Do I need an AED?
When anesthetic agents of any kind are administered, the dentist and staff must have access to an AED or defibrillator.

WAC 246-817-724 Recordkeeping, Equipment, and Emergency Medication or Drugs

- What emergency medications or drugs do I need on hand?
Bronchodilator including, but not limited to albuterol; sugar or glucose; aspirin; antihistaminic including, but not limited to diphenhydramine; coronary artery vasodilator including, but not limited to nitroglycerin; and anti-anaphylactic agent including, but not limited to epinephrine.

WAC 246-817-730 Local Anesthesia

- Are vital signs always required before administration of local anesthesia?
No, for children 13 and younger taking vital signs is at the discretion of the provider. Vital signs are required for adults unless there are medical reasons for not obtaining them that are recorded and documented in the patient's chart.

WAC 246-817-740 Minimal Sedation with Nitrous Oxide

- What training do I need to provide minimal sedation with nitrous oxide?
14 hours of training is needed in one of the following: minimal sedation with nitrous oxide, moderate sedation with nitrous oxide, or advanced education program accredited by CODA.
- I provide minimal sedation. Do I need a BLS certification?
Yes, you must hold a current and valid BLS certification.

WAC 246-817-745 Minimal Sedation

- What training do I need to provide minimal sedation which is limited to a single dose of a single oral agent with or without nitrous oxide?
16 hours of training is needed in one of the following: minimal sedation, moderate sedation, or advanced education program accredited by CODA.
- When administering minimal sedation can the 16-hour educational requirements be completed in pre-doctoral training?
Yes, as long as 16 full hours of education is documented in applicant's dental school transcripts.

WAC 246-817-755 Moderate Sedation with Enteral Agents

- Are moderate sedation permits and moderate sedation with enteral agents permits the same permit?
Yes, the name of the moderate sedation permit has been changed to moderate sedation with enteral agents.
- What training do I need to provide moderate sedation with enteral agents?
16 hours of training is needed in one of the following: minimal sedation, moderate sedation, or advanced education program accredited by CODA. And 21 hours of training in moderate sedation.
- When applying for moderate sedation with enteral agents permit can parenteral sedation training be used to meet the educational requirements?
Yes, higher level anesthesia training can be used as part of moderate sedation with enteral agents permit education requirements. Training must meet ADA guidelines in content and course objectives.

WAC 246-817-760 Moderate Sedation with Parenteral Agents

- What training do I need to provide moderate sedation with parenteral agents?
60 clock hours of training which includes basic moderate sedation, physical evaluation, in-person venipuncture and intravenous drug administration, technical administration, in-person recognition and management of complications and emergencies, monitoring, and supervised experience in providing moderate sedation with parenteral agents to 20 or more patients. Must hold and maintain a current certification in ACLS or PALS.
An interpretive statement has been adopted regarding the application requirements for moderate sedation with parenteral agents permits (PDF will be attached)

- When applying for a moderate sedation permit with parenteral agents can education completed for a moderate sedation with enteral agents be submitted as part of the 60-hour training requirement?

Yes, if the training meets ADA Guidelines in content and course objectives.

WAC 246-817-765 Pediatric Sedation Endorsement

- Do I need a pediatric sedation endorsement?
Effective January 1, 2025, you need a pediatric sedation endorsement to administer moderate sedation with enteral agents or moderate sedation with parenteral agents to patients aged 12 and under.
- What training do I need to obtain a pediatric sedation endorsement?
 - Already hold a valid moderate sedation with enteral agents or moderate sedation with parenteral agents permit, maintain a current and valid BLS and PALS certification
 - AND have training in a CODA postgraduate instruction in either pediatric dentistry, oral and maxillofacial surgery, dental anesthesiology OR Predoctoral dental school, postgraduate instruction, or continuing education of at least 37 hours in minimal and moderate sedation and an additional 14 hours in pediatric sedation.

WAC 246-817-770 General Anesthesia and Deep Sedation

- What training do I need to obtain a general anesthesia permit?
You must have a current ACLS and successfully complete two years of continuous full-time anesthesia training in at least one of the following:
 - a CODA accredited dental anesthesia program
 - a dental anesthesiology program approved by the dental quality assurance commission
 - an anesthesia residency training at a medical program accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education
 - an oral and maxillofacial surgery residency and obtain diplomate status of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, or fellow status of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, or Diploma in a CODA accredited Oral and Maxillofacial Residency Program.
- I provide general anesthesia. Can my team member who is providing patient monitoring perform other dental assistant tasks?
No, the team member designated for patient monitoring may not perform dental assistant tasks.

WAC 246-817-773 Continuing Education for Dentists Administering Sedation

- What CE do I need to maintain my permit?
Starting January 1, 2024, the CE reporting period for minimal sedation with nitrous oxide and minimal sedation is every five years.

Starting January 1, 2024, the CE reporting period for moderate sedation with enteral agents, moderate sedation with parenteral agents, pediatric sedation endorsement and general anesthesia permit is every 3 years.

	WAC 246-817-740 Minimal sedation with nitrous oxide – 7 hours	WAC 246-817-745 Minimal sedation – 7 hours	WAC 246-817-755 Moderate sedation with enteral agents – 7 hours	WAC 246-817-760 Moderate sedation with parenteral agents – 14 hours	WAC 246-817-765 Pediatric sedation endorsement – 14 hours	WAC 246-817-770 General anesthesia and deep sedation – 18 hours
Appropriate use of immobilization devices					X	
ACLS	X	X	X			
Behavioral management						X
General anesthesia						X
Inhalation analgesia						X
Medical emergencies	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nitrous oxide analgesia	X	X	X	X	X	
Oral or intravenous sedation				X		
Oral sedation	X	X	X			
PALS	X	X	X	X		X
Patient evaluation	X	X	X	X	X	X
Patient monitoring	X	X	X	X	X	X
Pediatric behavioral management					X	
Pediatric pharmacology					X	
Pediatric physiological					X	
Pediatric sedation					X	
Pharmacology				X		X
Physiology	X	X	X	X		X

WAC 246-817-774 Permitting and Renewal Requirements

- How do I provide a written declaration of continuing compliance when I renew my anesthesia permit?
An attestation will be included in the anesthesia permit renewal application.
- Do I need to perform emergency drills in my office?
Yes, if you have a permit for moderate sedation with enteral agents, moderate sedation with parenteral agents, or general anesthesia you must have written documentation that a minimum of 12 emergency drills scenarios were performed at least two times per year. You need to maintain this documentation for three years.