Dental Anesthesia Regulation
In Washington State

Authority to Regulate

• Rules—Administration of sedation and general anesthesia.
  • (1) The commission may adopt such rules as it deems necessary to carry out this chapter.
  • (2) The commission may adopt rules governing administration of sedation and general anesthesia by persons licensed under this chapter, including necessary training, education, equipment, and the issuance of any permits, certificates, or registration as required.
Administration of Anesthetic Agents

- WAC 246-817-701
  - Scope of the rule
  - Intent:
    - Regulation based in intended level of sedation/anesthesia
    - Sedation/Anesthesia is a continuum
    - Practitioners should be able to rescue a patient who enters a deeper state of sedation than intended.

Levels of Anesthesia/Sedation

- Minimal: Normal response to verbal commands, ventilator and cardio functions unimpaired – no permit required
- Moderate: Consciousness depressed, but responsive to verbal commands. Ventilatory functions are adequate. Cardio functions usually maintained – moderate sedation permit required
- General Anesthesia: Loss of consciousness, not arousable, airway, spontaneous ventilation, and cardio function may be impaired – General Anesthesia permit
Applicable to All Levels of Sedation

• Some requirements apply to all levels
  – AED available within 60 seconds
  – Charting medical history and patient evaluation, adverse reactions, medications and dosages
  – Charting pre-sedation vitals
    • Doesn’t apply to minimal sedation by inhalation
    • Document reasons why vitals can’t be obtained.

Applicable to All Levels of Sedation

• Suction equipment
• Oxygen delivery system
• Blood pressure cuff and stethoscope or equivalent monitoring device
• Basic emergency drugs
More Requirements for Deeper Levels

- Permits required for moderate sedation and general anesthesia
- Training and experience requirements for permitting
- CE and life support training requirements
- Training, equipment, emergency medication stocks, staff, charting, supervision and monitoring requirements for each level.
- Some requirements specific to parenteral administration for each level.

Using Non-Dentist Providers

- MD, DO, ARNP can provide anesthesia
- Responsible for ensuring that all requirement equipment, emergency drugs, etc are present
  - Treating dentist must have a contract with the anesthesia provider if general anesthesia is planned.
    - Contract must cover all staff training, monitoring, equipment and drugs requirements
  - Anesthesia provider responsible for pre-op, operative, and post operative anesthesia treatment
Current Areas of Discussion

• Requiring regular clinic inspections for sedation/anesthesia permit holders
• Additional requirements specific to pediatric sedation/anesthesia
• Reaching out to the physician and nursing regulatory authorities re coordination on investigation and discipline matters where a non-dentist provider is involved.