

SUBCHAPTER 16Q - GENERAL ANESTHESIA AND SEDATION

SECTION .0100 – DEFINITIONS

21 NCAC 16Q .0101 GENERAL ANESTHESIA AND SEDATION DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these Rules relative to the administration of minimal conscious sedation, moderate conscious sedation, moderate conscious sedation limited to oral routes or nitrous oxide inhalation, moderate pediatric conscious sedation or general anesthesia by or under the direction of a dentist, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) "Analgesia" – the diminution or elimination of pain.
- (2) "Anti-anxiety sedative" – a sedative agent administered in a dosage intended to reduce anxiety without diminishing consciousness or protective reflexes.
- (3) "Anxiolysis" – pharmacological reduction of anxiety through the administration of a single dose of a minor psychosedative, possibly in combination with nitrous oxide, to children or adults prior to commencement of treatment on the day of the appointment which allows for uninterrupted interactive ability in a totally awake patient with no compromise in the ability to maintain a patent airway continuously and without assistance. Nitrous oxide may be administered in addition to the minor psychosedative without constituting multiple dosing for purpose of these Rules.
- (4) "Behavior control" – the use of pharmacological techniques to control behavior to a level that dental treatment can be performed effectively and efficiently.
- (5) "Behavioral management" – the use of pharmacological or psychological techniques, singly or in combination, to modify behavior to a level that dental treatment can be performed effectively and efficiently.
- (6) "Competent" – displaying special skill or knowledge derived from training and experience.
- (7) "Conscious sedation" - an induced state of a depressed level of consciousness that retains the patient's ability to independently and continuously maintain an airway and respond appropriately to physical stimulation and verbal command, and that is produced by pharmacologic or non-pharmacologic agents, or a combination thereof. In accordance with this particular definition, the drugs or techniques used shall carry a margin of safety wide enough to render unintended loss of consciousness unlikely.
- (8) "Deep sedation" – an induced state of a depressed level of consciousness accompanied by partial loss of protective reflexes, including the ability to continually maintain an airway independently or respond purposefully to verbal command, and is produced by pharmacological agents.
- (9) "Direct supervision" – the dentist responsible for the sedation/anesthesia procedure shall be physically present in the facility and shall be continuously aware of the patient's physical status and well being.
- (10) "Facility" – the location where a permit holder practices dentistry and provides anesthesia/sedation services.
- (11) "Facility inspection" - an on-site inspection to determine if a facility where the applicant proposes to provide anesthesia/sedation is supplied, equipped, staffed and maintained in a condition to support provision of anesthesia/sedation services that meet the minimum standard of care.
- (12) "General anesthesia" - the intended controlled state of a depressed level of consciousness that is produced by pharmacologic agents and accompanied by a partial or complete loss of protective reflexes, including the ability to maintain an airway and respond purposefully to physical stimulation or verbal commands.
- (13) "Immediately available" – on-site in the facility and available for immediate use.
- (14) "Local anesthesia" – the elimination of sensations, especially pain, in one part of the body by the regional application or injection of a drug.
- (15) "May" – indicates freedom or liberty to follow a reasonable alternative.
- (16) "Minimal conscious sedation" – conscious sedation characterized by a minimally depressed level of consciousness, in which patient retains the ability to independently and continuously maintain an airway and respond normally to tactile stimulation and verbal command, provided to patients 13 years or older, by oral or rectal routes of administration of a single pharmacological agent, in one or more doses, not to exceed the manufacturer's maximum recommended dose, at the time of treatment, possibly in combination with nitrous oxide. Minimal conscious sedation is provided for behavioral management.
- (17) "Minor psychosedative/Minor tranquilizer" – pharmacological agents which allow for uninterrupted interactive ability in a patient with no compromise in the ability to maintain a patent airway

continuously and without assistance and carry a margin of safety wide enough to render unintended loss of consciousness unlikely.

- (18) "Moderate conscious sedation" – conscious sedation characterized by a drug induced depression of consciousness, during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation, provided to patients 13 years or older, by oral, nasal, rectal or parenteral routes of administration of multiple pharmacological agents, in multiple doses, within a 24 hour period, including the time of treatment, possibly in combination with nitrous oxide. Moderate conscious sedation is provided for behavior control.
- (19) "Moderate conscious sedation limited to oral routes and nitrous oxide inhalation" – conscious sedation characterized by a drug induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation, provided to patients 13 years or older, by oral routes of administration and nitrous oxide inhalation, of single or multiple pharmacological agents, in single or multiple doses, within a 24 hour period. Moderate conscious sedation limited to oral routes and nitrous oxide inhalation is provided for behavior control.
- (20) "Moderate pediatric conscious sedation" - conscious sedation characterized by a drug induced depression of consciousness, during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation, provided to patients under 13 years of age, by oral, nasal, rectal or parenteral routes of administration of single or multiple pharmacological agents, in single or multiple doses, within a 24 hour period, including the time of treatment, possibly in combination with nitrous oxide. Moderate pediatric conscious sedation is provided for behavior control.
- (21) "Must" or "shall" – indicates an imperative need or duty or both; an essential or indispensable item; mandatory.
- (22) "Parenteral" - the administration of pharmacological agents intravenously, intraosseously, intramuscularly, subcutaneously, submucosally, intranasally, or transdermally.
- (23) "Protective reflexes" – includes the ability to swallow and cough.
- (24) "Supplemental dosing" – the oral administration of a pharmacological agent that results in an enhanced level of conscious sedation when added to the primary sedative agent administered for the purpose of oral moderate conscious sedation, and which, when added to the primary agent, does not exceed the maximum safe dose of either agent, separately or synergistically.
- (25) "Vested adult" – a responsible adult who is the legal parent or guardian, or designee of a legal parent or guardian, entrusted with the care of a minor following the administration of general anesthesia or conscious sedation.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 90-28; 90-30.1;
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