



## **Parish Dental Practice Policy: Sedation in Dental Procedures**

### **Policy Statement:**

Parish Dental Practice is committed to the safe and effective use of sedation in dental procedures. This policy outlines the protocols for the administration of sedation, ensuring the highest standard of patient care and safety.

### **Objective:**

To provide clear guidelines for the use of sedation, ensuring it is administered safely, effectively, and ethically, with proper patient consent and monitoring.

### **Scope:**

This policy applies to all dental professionals at Parish Dental Practice who are involved in administering or monitoring sedation, as well as to patients undergoing procedures with sedation.

### **Detailed Procedures:**

#### **1. Patient Assessment:**

- Conduct thorough pre-sedation assessments, including medical history, current medications, and any allergies, to determine the suitability for sedation.
- Assess the patient's anxiety level and the need for sedation.

#### **2. Informed Consent:**

- Obtain informed consent after discussing the risks, benefits, and alternatives to sedation with the patient or their guardian.
- Document the consent process in the patient's record.

#### **3. Types of Sedation:**

- Clearly define the types of sedation used (e.g., nitrous oxide, oral sedatives, IV sedation) and the protocols for each, including dosage, administration, and contraindications.

#### **4. Staff Training and Certification:**

- Ensure that all staff administering or monitoring sedation are properly trained and certified.
- Maintain records of staff qualifications and ongoing training.

#### **5. Sedation Administration:**

- Follow standardized protocols for the administration of sedation, including dosage calculations and monitoring equipment setup.





- Use only approved sedative agents, and ensure they are stored and handled securely.

## 6. **Patient Monitoring:**

- Implement continuous monitoring of the patient's vital signs (heart rate, blood pressure, oxygen saturation) during sedation.
- Have resuscitation equipment readily available and ensure staff are trained in its use.

## 7. **Post-Sedation Care:**

- Provide appropriate post-sedation care, including monitoring until the patient is deemed safe to be discharged.
- Give clear post-sedation instructions to the patient or their escort, covering recovery and potential side effects.

## 8. **Emergency Protocols:**

- Establish emergency protocols for managing adverse reactions or complications from sedation.
- Conduct regular training and drills on emergency response.

## 9. **Documentation and Record Keeping:**

- Document all aspects of the sedation process, including pre-assessment, consent, sedative administration, patient monitoring data, and post-sedation recovery.

## 10. **Policy Review and Improvement:**

- Regularly review and update the sedation policy to incorporate new guidelines, feedback, and advancements in sedation techniques.

## **Enhanced Responsibility and Compliance:**

- **Practice Manager:** Responsible for ensuring compliance with the sedation policy and maintaining staff training and certification records.
- **Dental Professionals:** Accountable for adhering to sedation protocols, patient safety, and emergency preparedness.
- **Support Staff:** Assist in preparing for sedation procedures and post-sedation care.

This policy ensures that Parish Dental Practice provides safe and effective sedation, prioritizing patient care and adherence to professional standards. Regular training, strict adherence to protocols, and thorough documentation are key for the successful implementation of this policy.

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**Updated Yearly**

