



FALL 2013

# FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

PROTECTING THE PUBLIC THROUGH LICENSURE,  
ENFORCEMENT AND INFORMATION



Dan Gesek, DMD  
Board Chair



Carl Melzer, DDS  
Former Chair

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Carl Melzer, former board member and past Chair of the Board of Dentistry, for his outstanding service and dedication to the Board over the past ten years.

Dr. Melzer was elected by his peers to serve as Chairman for three of the last 10 years. He has been instrumental in making changes to our rules regarding the use of sedation and has served and is currently serving as our Chairman of the Probable Cause Panel. During his time with the Board of Dentistry, he has reviewed over 5,000 cases.

Dr. Melzer has spent many hours working on increasing access to sedation services for dental patients while also developing ways that would contribute to an overall increase in patient safety. Because of Dr. Melzer's dedication, Florida was one of the first states to require an AED in dental offices.

On behalf of the Board and Florida's dental patients, we want to extend our appreciation for the efforts Dr. Melzer has made to increase patient safety and access to care. We appreciate your willingness to continue to serve the Board as an advisor of our Anesthesia Committee and as Chair of our Probable Cause Panel.

Best wishes,  
Dan Gesek, DMD

## FLORIDA BOARD OF DENTISTRY

Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin #C08  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3258  
850.245.4474 office • 850.921.5389 fax  
[www.floridasdentistry.gov](http://www.floridasdentistry.gov)

## Guide for the Use of Sedation in the Practice of Dentistry

In the past several months, the Florida Board of Dentistry has made substantial changes to the Chapter of the *Florida Administrative Code*, which governs the use of anesthesia. These changes are expected to increase access to sedation services for dental patients while also increasing patient safety. These sedation services are also expected to have a positive economic benefit to business while decreasing costs of sedation services to patients.

In response to these changes, David Flynn, Esq., our excellent board attorney with the Florida Attorney General's office prepared a *Guide to Sedation in the Practice of Dentistry*. This guide is intended to be a basic outline covering a select few areas of sedation, in particular, areas that were recently updated by rule.

Generally, a dentist may not use, employ the use of or administer general anesthesia, deep sedation, conscious sedation or pediatric conscious sedation without first obtaining a permit, properly equipping the outpatient dental office, and passing a board inspection.

The Board of Dentistry has established three types of sedation permits: 1) A General Anesthesia Permit; 2) A Conscious Sedation Permit; and 3) A Pediatric Conscious Sedation Permit. Each type of permit requires a very specific type of training and education before the permit is issued. Each type of permit has specific allowances and limitations.

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## August 22-23, 2013 Board Meeting Recap

Dr. Dan Gesek, Chairman of the Board of Dentistry, held a rules workshop on the evening of August 23, 2013, with discussions regarding the use of a qualified anesthetist. This meeting was followed by comments and reviews on anesthesia rules and the use of sedation in the practice of dentistry. The following day, August 23, 2013, the Board reviewed 13 disciplinary cases, accepting seven settlement agreements, three waiver/default cases, two voluntary relinquishments and a recommended order. The Board also took action on three petitions for variance and waiver. There were several application/credentials reviews. For further details including minutes and audio of the meetings, please see the Board of Dentistry website at: [www.floridasdentistry.gov](http://www.floridasdentistry.gov).

The recording of the August 23, 2013 proceeding can be found at the August 22-23 GBM at:

<http://www.floridasdentistry.gov/meeting-information/past-meetings/>

### RENEWAL REMINDER

Dentists, dental hygienists and dental labs: your renewal is approaching. Reminder postcards will be mailed in early November and licenses must be renewed by February 28, 2014. The Department is requesting that courses be entered into CEBroker this year. For free access, visit [www.ceATrenewal.com](http://www.ceATrenewal.com).

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A dentist with a general anesthesia permit may use, employ the use of or administer general anesthesia, deep sedation, conscious sedation, and pediatric sedation. The general anesthesia permit holder is not limited in the type of anesthetic drug that may be utilized. A general anesthesia permit holder may employ the use of anesthesia on any dental patient. This includes adult patients, special needs patients of all ages and pediatric patients.

A conscious sedation permit holder may use, employ the use of or administer conscious sedation and pediatric conscious sedation. A conscious sedation permit holder may not use, employ the use of or administer propofol, methohexital, thiopental, etomidate or ketamine. A conscious sedation permit holder may employ the use of conscious sedation on any dental patient. This includes adult patients, special needs patients of all ages and pediatric patients.

A pediatric conscious sedation permit holder may use, employ the use of or administer pediatric conscious sedation. A pediatric conscious sedation permit holder may not employ the use of or administer propofol, methohexital, thiopental, etomidate, or ketamine. A pediatric conscious sedation permit holder may only employ the use of pediatric conscious sedation on pediatric patients and special needs patients regardless of age. A pediatric or child patient is defined as anyone less than 18 years of age. A special needs patient is any person, regardless of age, who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more life activities.

A complete copy of the *Guide to Sedation in the Practice of Dentistry* is available on the Board of Dentistry website.

**Please Note: This guide does not replace the actual rule.** The guide does not cover all requirements or information that is contained in each rule.

All dentists should review each rule for themselves. If a dentist has questions or concerns, they should seek clarity through the Florida Board of Dentistry or through private counsel.

#### Dental Health Resource Listing

The Dental needs of disadvantaged persons in the State are great and public resources to meet these are limited. A resource listing by county is available at the following website: [www.doh.state.fl.us/family/dental/resources/index.html](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/dental/resources/index.html). Click on appropriate county for a listing of Medicaid area offices, county health departments, community health centers, dental schools, volunteer programs.