

Summary of Decisions

From the Dental Council meeting 2 May 2016

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The Dental Council (Council) is the statutory body constituted under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (The Act) to maintain the health and safety of members of the public by providing mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise. Council endeavours to keep its key stakeholders up to date with key decisions.

This document is a summary of Council's decisions from the meeting held in May 2016.

Administration of Botulinum-A by dentists

The Council Statement on the Administration of Administration of Botulinum-A by dentists will be reviewed when the New and Advanced areas of practice – Practice Standard comes under review later in 2016.

Review of recertification policy

In order to agree on a final position of the recertification policy, Council established a committee to consider the options presented. The committee will then provide the Council with a recommended policy approach.

Council appointed the following members to the committee:

- John Aarts – dental technician
- Jocelyn Logan - dentist
- Charlotte Neame – dental hygienist
- Karen Ferns – laymember

Conscious Sedation Practice Standard review and draft Sedation Practice Standard

The Council began the review of the Council Conscious sedation for dental procedures practice standard (April 2006) in December 2015. This involved the analysis and comparison of the Council's existing practice standard and similar New Zealand, Australasian and other international standards and guidelines.

During this process, a number of key areas were identified as absent, under-developed or positionally different in the current practice standard when compared with the other standards and guidelines.

The analysis informed the development of the first draft practice standard. The secretariat staff engaged subject-matter experts to advise the Council on the clinical aspects of sedation. The consultants were:

- Don Macalister – Oral surgeon practising intravenous sedation (Auckland).
- Rehua Smallman - General dentist (Wellington)
- Nick Stretton - General dental practitioner (Waiheke Island)
- Mathew Zacharias – Specialist Anaesthetist, University of Otago.

The consultants met in March 2016 to consider the first draft practice standard, with the overall aim of identifying any concerns with the preliminary standards and guidance. Overall the consultants were comfortable with the approach and areas covered in the first draft, with some minor amendments made.

At its meeting, the Council considered the key areas of proposed changes in the draft sedation practice standard and accordingly agreed:

- To not include the term “conscious” sedation in the title, or use the term in the practice standard.
- To limit the purpose of the draft practice standard to minimal and moderate sedation.
- The proposed principles of safe sedation.
- The composition for the sedation team for minimal and moderate sedation, and the associated sedation and/or monitoring, and resuscitation training requirements.
- That the use of the following not be limited by the practice standard, with the safety measures in place in the draft practice standard:
 - i. oral sedation to only minimal sedation
 - ii. propofol for IV sedation.
- That the BDS (Otago) qualification, or recognised equivalent, is considered sufficient education and training to provide and monitor nitrous oxide/ oxygen sedation, subject to the practitioner maintaining their knowledge and skills in this area.
- Additional formal education and training is required to provide any other sedation technique(s), and/or use other drug(s); including to be “prepared to gain intravenous access if you provide sedation to enable the administration of the appropriate reversal drug/s when indicated, except when providing only nitrous oxide/oxygen sedation.”
- That all practitioners administering sedation maintain their sedation knowledge and skills through biennial refresher training – including nitrous oxide/ oxygen sedation.
- The proposed the competencies for oral health practitioners providing sedation and monitoring, as reflected in the appendices in the draft practice standard.
- To not include specific standards for sedation of children; or self-audits of sedation cases.
- To further investigate the use of Pentrox as inhalation sedation, and the associated sedation-related requirements.

Council also agreed to organise a discussion forum on the proposed training requirements and the implementation feasibility with following potential education providers on sedation:

- NZ Society for Anaesthesia & Sedation in Dentistry
- New Zealand Dental Association (oral sedation course)
- University of Otago Faculty of Dentistry(surgery and paediatrics)
- Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons.

Council Policies

Council approved the following revised policies:

- Health and Safety at Work
- Level of Reserves