

Chapter DE 15

CERTIFICATION OF DENTAL HYGIENISTS TO ADMINISTER NITROUS OXIDE INHALATION ANALGESIA

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DE 15.01 Authority. The rules in this chapter are adopted under authority in ss. 15.085 (5) (b), 227.11 (2) (a) and 447.02 (2) (j), Stats.

History: CR 15-056: cr. Register February 2016 No. 722, eff. 3-1-16.

DE 15.02 Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) “Accredited” has the meaning given in s. 447.01 (1), Stats.

(2) “ADA CERP” means American Dental Association Continuing Education Recognition Program.

(3) “AGD PACE” means Academy of General Dentistry program approval for continuing education.

History: CR 15-056: cr. Register February 2016 No. 722, eff. 3-1-16.

DE 15.03 Qualifications for certification of licensed dental hygienists to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia. The board shall grant certification to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia to an applicant who satisfies all of the following conditions:

(1) The applicant holds a valid license to practice as a dental hygienist in this state.

(2) The applicant has completed the educational requirements of s. DE 15.05.

(3) The applicant has submitted the information required in the application under s. DE 15.04.

History: CR 15-056: cr. Register February 2016 No. 722, eff. 3-1-16.

DE 15.04 Application procedure. An applicant for a certificate to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia shall file a completed application on a form provided by the board. The application shall include all of the following:

(1) The dental hygienist license number in this state and the signature of the applicant.

(2) Evidence of successful completion of a didactic and clinical certification program, resulting in the dental hygienist becoming competent to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia under the delegation and supervision of a dentist, the curriculum of which meets or exceeds the basic course requirements set forth in s. DE 15.05.

History: CR 15-056: cr. Register February 2016 No. 722, eff. 3-1-16.

DE 15.05 Educational requirements. The board shall grant certification to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia to a licensed hygienist who completes a certification program that meets all of the following:

(1) The certification program in the administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia shall be sponsored by an accredited dental or dental hygiene school or be an approved ADA CERP or AGD PACE provider.

(2) The nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia administration certification program shall provide a minimum of 8 hours of instruction and shall consist of all of the following:

(a) Didactic instruction including all of the following:

1. Legal aspects of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia administration in Wisconsin.

2. Physiological and psychological aspects of anxiety.

3. Stages of consciousness and the levels of sedation.

4. Respiratory and circulatory physiology and related anatomy.

5. Pharmacology of nitrous oxide.

6. Advantages and disadvantages as well as the indications and contraindications for nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia administration.

7. Patient evaluation, selection, and preparation for nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia administration.

8. The function of the basic components of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia delivery and scavenging systems including all of the following:

a. Inspecting all components of the nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia delivery equipment.

b. Assembling and disassembling components.

c. Operating nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia equipment.

d. Disinfecting and sterilizing nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia equipment.

9. Safe and effective administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia to patients in a clinical setting including all of the following:

a. Determining the patient’s ideal flow rate and tidal volume.

b. Performing titration to effect.

c. Determining the ideal percentage of nitrous oxide flow rate for individual patients.

d. Calculating the percentage of nitrous oxide at peak flow.

10. Monitoring and documenting a patient undergoing nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia.

11. Complications associated with nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia administration and the prevention, recognition, and management of associated medical emergencies.

12. Troubleshooting problems with nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia administration.

13. Potential health hazards associated with nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia administration.

(b) Clinical experience consisting of three inductions of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia on another person under supervision of the instructor.

(3) The certification program shall have a dentist licensed un-

der ch. 447, Stats., present in the facility and available to both the patients and to the students of the class.

(4) The certification program shall include a final assessment of competency of the didactic and clinical components of the program.

History: CR 15-056: cr. Register February 2016 No. 722, eff. 3-1-16.

DE 15.06 Dentist responsibility for the administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia. A dentist may delegate to a dental hygienist the administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia only if all of the following requirements are met:

(1) The nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia is administered pursuant to a treatment plan approved by the dentist.

(2) The dentist remains on the premises.

(3) The dentist is available to the patient throughout the completion of the appointment.

History: CR 15-056: cr. Register February 2016 No. 722, eff. 3-1-16; EmR2410: emerg. am. (intro.), eff. 7-26-24; CR 24-094: am. (intro.) Register July 2025 No. 835, eff. 8-1-25.

DE 15.07 Dental therapist delegation to a dental hygienist the administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia. (1) In this section, “supervising dentist” has the meaning given in s. DE 17.01 (6).

(2) Pursuant to the requirements under ss. 447.06 (2) (e) and 447.065 (2), Stats., a dental therapist may delegate to a dental hygienist the administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia only if all of the following requirements are met:

(a) The nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia is administered pursuant to a treatment plan approved by the dentist.

(b) The dentist remains on the premises in which the administration is performed and is available to the patient throughout the completion of the appointment.

(c) The dental therapist has the authority to perform the activity personally, pursuant to the requirements under s. 447.06 (3) (bm) 1. and 2., Stats.

(d) The dental therapist remains under the supervision of the supervising dentist for the duration of the procedure. The dental therapist’s level of supervision shall be the level agreed upon for the procedure, as specified in the dental therapist’s collaborative management agreement described in s. DE 17.03 (5).

(e) The supervising dentist has allowed the dental therapist to administer nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia within the dental therapist’s collaborative management agreement, pursuant to the requirements under s. 447.06 (3) (d) 1., Stats.

(f) The supervising dentist has expressly allowed the dental therapist to delegate the administration of nitrous oxide inhalation analgesia within the dental therapist’s collaborative management agreement, pursuant to the requirements under s. 447.06 (3) (d) 1., Stats.

(3) In sub. (2), the dentist who approves the treatment plan and remains available to the patient may be a different dentist than the supervising dentist for the dental therapist.

(4) The dental therapist, the dental therapist’s supervising dentist, and the dentist who approves the treatment plan shall be responsible for any services, treatments, or procedures delegated and performed under sub. (2).

History: EmR2410: emerg. cr., eff. 7-26-24; CR 24-094: cr. Register July 2025 No. 835, eff. 8-1-25.