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A Parent's Guide to Safe Dental Sedation

(The 8 Questions You MUST Ask - Back Cover)

A young child with light-colored hair is sitting on a white surface. The child is wearing a large, dark-colored hat and light-colored overalls over a striped shirt. The child's hands are outstretched in front of them, and they are looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression.

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Nevada Laws Pertaining to Sedation of Dental Patients Help Protect Our Children!

(Below, *italicized words* are taken directly from Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Codes)

•Definition of Conscious Sedation:

NRS 631.025 “Conscious sedation” defined. “Conscious sedation” means a minimally depressed level of consciousness, produced by a pharmacologic or nonpharmacologic method or a combination thereof, in which the patient retains the ability independently and continuously to maintain an airway and to respond appropriately to physical stimulation and verbal commands.

(Added to NRS by 2001, 2691)

•Dentist Can Administer Sedation to only One Patient at a Time:

NAC 631.230 Unprofessional conduct. (NRS 631.190, 631.347)...

...(i) Administering conscious sedation to more than one patient at a time...

•Separate Sedation Permit Required (Dentist Must Meet Training Requirements):

NRS 631.265 Permit to administer general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation.

1. No licensed dentist or person who holds a restricted license issued pursuant to NRS 631.275 may administer or supervise directly the administration of general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation to dental patients unless he has been issued a permit authorizing him to do so by the Board.

2. The Board may issue a permit authorizing a licensed dentist or person who holds a restricted license issued pursuant to NRS 631.275 to administer or supervise directly the administration of general anesthesia, conscious sedation or deep sedation to dental patients under such standards, conditions and other requirements as the Board shall by regulation prescribe.

(Added to NRS by 1983, 278; A 1989, 1740; 2001, 2692)

•Dentist CANNOT DELEGATE Tasks on Sedated Children:

NRS 631.313 Assignment of dental hygienist or dental assistant to perform intraoral tasks under supervision of dentist...

*...3. No such assignment is permitted that requires:
...(c) conscious sedation or deep sedation except as otherwise authorized by regulations adopted by the Board.*

•Dentist must be Physically Present and Directly Supervise Administration of Sedative Drugs to Your Child:

NAC 631.230 Unprofessional conduct. (NRS 631.190, 631.347)...

...1(h) The failure of a dentist who is administering or directly supervising the administration of general anesthesia, deep sedation or conscious sedation to be physically present while a patient is under general anesthesia, deep sedation or conscious sedation.

... (p) Allowing a person to administer general anesthesia, deep sedation or conscious sedation to a patient if the person does not hold a permit to administer such anesthesia or sedation...

•A Pulse Oximeter is Required to Monitor Your Child:

NAC 631.230 Unprofessional conduct. (NRS 631.190, 631.347)...

...(k) The failure to have any patient who is undergoing general anesthesia, deep sedation or conscious sedation monitored with a pulse oximeter or similar equipment required by the Board.

•Anyone Who Cares for Your Sedated Child is Required to be CPR Certified:

NAC 631.230 Unprofessional conduct. (NRS 631.190, 631.347)...

...(l) Allowing a person who is not certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation to care for any patient who is undergoing general anesthesia, deep sedation or conscious sedation.

•Dentist Must Take Complete Medical History, Blood Pressure and Pulse:

NAC 631.2229 Inspections and evaluations: Records of patients. (NRS 631.190, 631.265) A dentist’s office inspected or evaluated for the issuance or renewal of a general anesthesia permit, conscious sedation permit or certificate of site approval must meet the following minimum standards with regard to the records of patients:

- 1. Adequate medical history and records of physical evaluation.*
- 2. Records of the administration of anesthesia must include:
 - (a) The patient’s blood pressure and pulse;*
 - (b) The names of the drugs and the amounts administered...**

If Your Child Requires Sedative Medication, These are Eight Questions You Should Ask Your Child's Dentist:

(All Questions MUST be answered YES!)

- 1.** Does the dentist have a current Nevada Conscious Sedation Permit?
- 2.** Does the dentist only sedate one child at a time?
- 3.** Does the dentist directly supervise administration of the sedative medications?
- 4.** Does the dentist consider Valium a conscious sedation drug when given to children? (If they say no, have them ask the Nevada Board of Dental Examiners for an opinion.)
- 5.** Does the dentist monitor sedated children, with a pulse oximeter, from the time the medication is given?
- 6.** Is everyone who cares for a sedated child CPR certified?
- 7.** Is the dentist ACLS or PALS certified?
- 8.** Is blood pressure, pulse and updated medical history taken each time my child is sedated?

One Question to Consider: (A matter of personal preference)

Does the dentist allow one parent in the treatment area with my child at the time of administration of sedation and during treatment?

Common Sense

Most of the laws are common sense. For instance, no responsible dentist would allow a child to receive sedative medications from a staff member then let the child to "run loose" in the waiting room. No conscientious dentist would sedate more than one child at a time.

Most dentists in Nevada do a great job at complying with Nevada Law. *As long as Nevada laws are followed, dental sedation will be extremely safe for your child.*