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August, 2015

**Informational Letter Regarding Board Rule Chapter 14
"Rules For Use Of Sedation and General Anesthesia By Dentists"**

At its July 17, 2015 meeting, the Maine Board of Dental Examiners discussed the need to clarify its site permitting process as outlined in Chapter 14 of the Board's rules. Specifically, Chapter 14, Section VIII describes the permitting process when the operating dentist obtains services from a sedation provider to provide services in their dental practice. However, the site permit rule does not specifically address expectations when utilizing an *itinerant* sedation provider, nor does it specifically address expectations when the *itinerant* sedation provider is administering pediatric sedation.

The intent of this letter is to provide licensees with some clarity regarding the Board's permitting process when seeking *itinerant* sedation provider services, especially when such services are being provided in a pediatric dental practice setting. Furthermore, there have been many questions regarding the inspection process and the role/responsibility that the *itinerant* sedation provider will have at both the initial inspection and the re-inspection process.

Chapter 14 outlines the standards that the Board expects its licensees to follow when providing sedation, either directly or utilizing the services of a Maine licensed sedation provider. The standards adopted by the Board are two American Dental Association ("ADA") publications entitled "Guidelines for Teaching Pain Control and Sedation to Dentists and Dental Students" and "Guidelines for the Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia by Dentists."

The ADA guidelines also include the adoption of pediatric sedation as outlined in the publication entitled "Guidelines for Monitoring and Management of Pediatric Patients During and After Sedation for Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures: An Update" as provided by the American Academy of Pediatrics ("AAP") and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry ("AAPD").

After a thorough discussion, the Board determined that the following items are needed **prior to issuing a site permit to a dentist** who plans to utilize the services of an *itinerant* sedation provider when providing services to pediatric patients:

PHONE: (207) 287-3333
FAX: (207) 287-8140

WEBSITE ADDRESS: www.mainedental.org
E-MAIL ADDRESS: dental.board@maine.gov

Application/Inspection Process:

1. Signed, completed site permit application which includes the credentials of the sedation provider who must be licensed in Maine to lawfully provide the level of sedation sought under the site permit application; and
2. A confirmed inspection date with two members of the Board's anesthesia committee, which must include the attendance and participation of the *itinerant* sedation provider for the purpose of inspecting equipment and medications, as well as simulation emergency scenarios with the Board's inspectors.

Board staff will issue the site permit upon successful completion of the items above and will send out the sample inspection form with the accompany reference materials to prepare the licensee for the inspection component. It is imperative that the operating dentist ensure that the *itinerant* sedation provider be available when the Board inspects the facility for initial/renewal purposes and in the event that an inspection is needed as part of a consumer complaint.

The Board reminds licensees to follow the ADA and AAP/AAPD guidelines as referenced in Chapter 14, and reinforces the importance for the operating dentist and the *itinerant* sedation provider to properly coordinate their respective roles/responsibilities when following clinical guidelines as outlined below:

Clinical Guidelines as Outlined in the ADA and AAP/AAPD

1. The ADA Guidelines outlines the clinical guidelines when utilizing sedation. The guidelines include patient evaluation, pre-operative preparation, personnel and equipment requirements, monitoring and documentation, recovery and discharge, emergency management, and management of special needs patients and children; and
2. The AAP/AAPD Guidelines outlines general guidelines when utilizing sedation on pediatric patients. The guidelines include candidate/proper patient classification, facilities, back-up emergency services, on-site monitoring and rescuing equipment, documentation before, during and after treatment, dietary precautions, as well as use of immobilization devices.

Below are website links to the documents mentioned in this letter:

Board's statute/rules:

<http://www.mainedental.org/>

ADA Guidelines:

<http://www.ada.org/en/member-center/oral-health-topics/anesthesia-and-sedation#addl>

AAP/AAPD Guidelines:

http://www.aapd.org/media/policies_guidelines/g_sedation.pdf

Should you have any questions regarding this notice, please feel free to Board staff at dental.board@maine.gov or by calling our office at 207.287.3333.