



COLLEGE OF
DENTAL HYGIENISTS
OF MANITOBA

POSITION STATEMENT: Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Conscious Sedation

February 2021

The College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba is responsible for developing professional resource documents for dental hygienists and in serving the public interest. Council approves these documents, of which, the purpose is to explain, enhance, add, or guide dental hygiene practice in accordance with The Dental Hygienists Act and Regulation. It is the responsibility of the dental hygienist to understand and comply with these documents.

The College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba's Position Statement for Nitrous Oxide/Oxygen Conscious Sedation

Purpose

This position statement is to inform registrants of the College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM) about the current requirements for the administration of nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation.

Background

Nitrous oxide sedation (N₂O/O₂) is commonly used for the management of anxiety and mild pain. It is a safe means of conscious sedation when properly administered. Nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation is administered as a continuous flow, from initiation to termination.

Position

The Dental Hygienists Act and Regulation **does not** permit administration (initiation, monitoring and terminating) of nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation by Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH).

RDHs may provide dental hygiene care to clients undergoing nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation provided that the initiation, continuous monitoring of patient vital signs, and termination is provided by a dentist who is registered with the Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) for administration of nitrous oxide/oxygen conscious sedation.

Applicable Legislation

According to the Dental Hygienists Act and Regulation, nitrous oxide sedation is not listed as an Included Practice.

According to the CDHM Practice Standards, dental hygienists:⁵

- 1.1. Adhere to current jurisdictional legislation, regulations, codes of ethics, practice standards, guidelines, and policies relevant to the profession and practice setting.

*This position statement reflects current knowledge and is subject to periodic review and revisions with on-going research.

References

1. Clark M, Brunick A. Handbook of nitrous oxide and oxygen sedation. Mosby; 2003. p.3.
2. The Dental Hygienists Act C.C.S.M. c. D34. 80/2009. 2008. Available from: <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/38-4/b005e.php>
3. Dental Hygienists' Regulation. <https://www.canlii.org/en/mb/laws/regu/man-reg-80-2008/latest/man-reg-80-2008.html>
4. Dental Hygienists' Code of Ethics. The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association. 2024. Available from: https://cdhm.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Code_of_Ethics_EN_web.pdf
5. CDHM Practice Standards. College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba. 2007.