The Official Guide to Dental Sedation Certification

4 steps to unlock the value and benefits of sedation dentistry

ADMA
ACADEMY OF DENTAL AND MEDICAL ANESTHESIA
EDUCATION • SAFETY • TRAINING

Step 1: Is Dental Sedation Right for Your Practice?

Adding dental sedation to your clinical toolbox is a strategic win for your practice if:

1. You Perform Surgical or Complex Procedures

Extractions, implants, extensive restorative work, or any procedure lasting over 60 minutes benefits dramatically from sedation's controlled operative conditions.



2. Patient Anxiety is Disrupting Your Schedule

Do patients frequently cancel, reschedule multiple times, or seem visibly stressed during procedures? You're already encountering the 33% of adults who avoid dental care due to anxiety.



3. You're Referring Revenue Out the Door

Complex cases you send to specialists could stay in-house with sedated patients who can tolerate longer appointments. More cases completed = more revenue retained.

4. Scheduling Inefficiencies are Costing You

Multiple short visits for anxious patients are less efficient than fewer, longer sedated appointments. Sedation reduces cancellations and improves chair utilization.

Is Dental Sedation Right for Your Practice?

5. You Want Competitive Differentiation
Practices offering sedation capture the growing market of comfort-seeking patients and generate more referrals from satisfied anxious patients.



6. You See Yourself as a Surgical Practitioner
If you perform dental surgery (not just cleanings), sedation aligns your practice with modern medical standards where patient comfort is non-negotiable.

7. You Can Invest 3 Days in Sedation Training
The time investment for certification pays long-term dividends in patient satisfaction, case acceptance, and practice growth.



Skip sedation if:
Your practice is purely preventive, you perform mostly cleanings & fillings, or patient anxiety is rare in your patient base.

For most practitioners performing surgical dentistry, sedation isn't just a good idea—it's becoming an expectation.

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Step 2: Choose Between Oral and IV Sedation Training

Choosing the right route of administration depends on your treatment goals, practice setup, and long-term vision. Here's how to decide:

	Oral Sedation	IV Sedation
1. Training Requirements	• Typically 3-day course (varies by state) • Less time-intensive, easier entry point • Trend: Some states moving toward requiring 60 hours + 20 clinical cases, making early certification advantageous ("grandfathering" in).	• Requires 60 hours and 20 clinical cases • Completed in a 7-day program • Higher upfront commitment but offers greater procedural flexibility.
2. Administration and Control	• Limited to enteral (pill or liquid) administration • Slower onset (typically 30–60 min) • Less predictable effect, harder to titrate • Suitable for mild to moderate anxiety cases and shorter procedures.	• Direct intravenous administration • Rapid onset and more precise titration • Allows quick adjustments and faster recovery • Immediate access to emergency medications if needed.
3. Patient Appeal and Case Types	• Non-invasive; many patients prefer avoiding needles • Often sufficient for basic restorative and hygiene-related anxiety management • Lower equipment and staffing requirements.	• Ideal for complex surgical procedures and high-anxiety patients • Expands your ability to perform longer, more involved treatments in-office • Enhances patient comfort and reduces chair time for extensive cases.
4. Practice Growth and Competitive Edge	• Faster to implement; good first step for growing sedation services • Attractive for dentists wanting to offer sedation without major operational changes.	• Positions your practice as a comprehensive care center • Broadens referral opportunities for complex cases • Long-term investment that differentiates your practice from competitors.



Step 3: Find a Reliable Sedation Training Provider

Not all sedation training courses are created equal. Protect your investment by opting for one that meets these essential criteria:



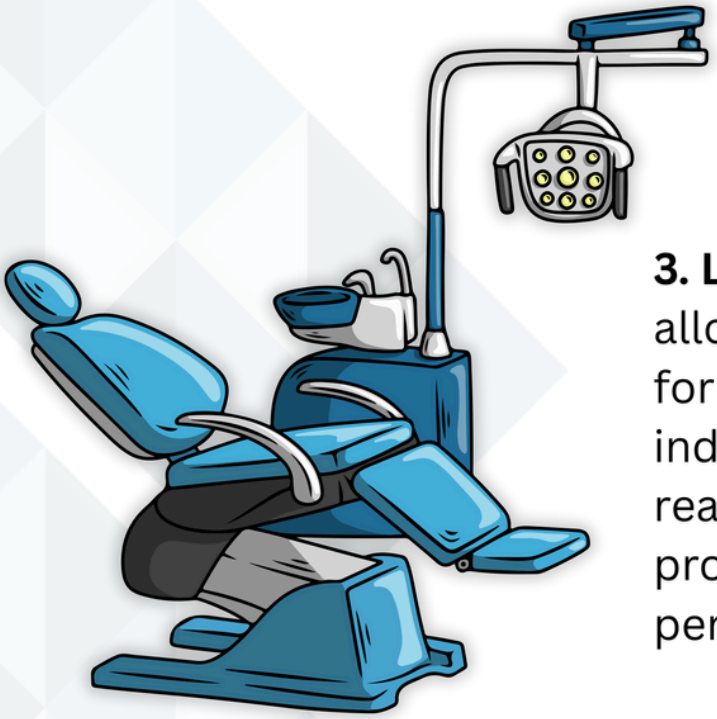
1. Permit Guarantee: You're taking sedation training to obtain a sedation permit. When deciding which course to take, ensure the institution offers a guarantee that their training will meet your state dental board's requirements.

2. Hands-On Training: Although uncommon, emergencies can happen during sedation. Your dental board requires you to be prepared to respond appropriately. Your sedation trainer should give you opportunities to practice hands-on emergency response - especially airway management.





Find a Reliable Sedation Training Provider



3. Live Case Experiences: Some states allow virtual / simulation cases to count for your permit. Others require individually managed clinical cases on real patients. Ensure your trainer will provide the appropriate cases for the permit you seek.

4. Post-Course Support: After your training, you need to submit your permit application to the dental board and pass a facility site inspection. Choose an organization that stands by a post-course support system that ensures you have the resources and guidance you need to successfully obtain your permit.



Navigating sedation certification doesn't have to be overwhelming. With the right support, your experience can be quite enjoyable. Plus, you'll return to your practice as a safe, confident, and effective practitioner

Step 4: Integrate Sedation Into Your Practice

Your journey of sedation education doesn't stop once you've finished your course - it's just beginning! Here's how to make the transition seamless:

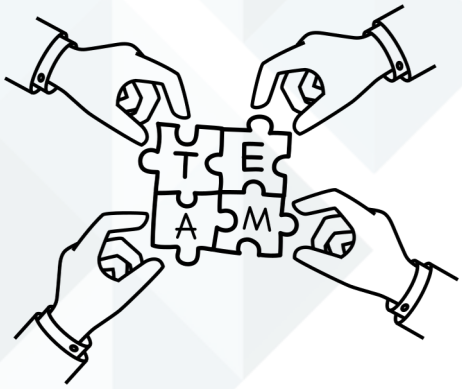


1. Obtain your sedation equipment: To comply with your state's regulations, you'll need to have the necessary vital signs monitor and emergency response equipment to begin offering sedation.

2. Order your medications: Sedation medications aren't the only ones you'll need to have on hand. To be prepared, you'll also need to order the required emergency medicines for your ER kit.



3. Spread the Word: An adjustment to your practice's website & a small sign in your lobby can be enough to get sedation patients to start flowing in. Word of mouth for these services spreads quickly!



4. Train Your Staff: Providing sedation is a team effort. When you return to your practice, bringing your staff up to speed will ensure a safe, smooth, and effective transition into providing patient care. Your assistants play a crucial role in monitoring, charting, intake/discharge, and more. Reputable training providers offer support and resources to make this a breeze.

You'll recognize the benefits of sedation dentistry almost immediately. You'll be thanking yourself - and so will your staff and your patients! Read on for a Bonus Tip.

Bonus Tips: Maintaining Your Sedation Skills

Much like dentistry, the landscape of sedation dentistry is constantly evolving. Meeting your state's CE requirement to maintain your permit is a great way to keep up on the latest developments. Benefits of sedation CE include:

1. Learning New Dosing Approaches: No 2 dentists perform extractions exactly the same, and approaches to sedation are no different. By continuing to absorb new perspectives, sedation practitioners can become more savvy at implementing a variety of sedation techniques.

2. Gaining Tips from Other Providers: At sedation CE courses, you'll encounter dentists from across the US that have experience in a diverse array of patient populations, procedures, and protocols. Often times, your peers will have insights that are just as valuable as the curriculum content.

3. Find Leads on Suppliers: As the supply chain landscape continues to shift, finding reputable, affordable, reliable sources to purchase consumables and medications can be a challenge. Sedation CE courses are excellent opportunities to find out where to get the best deals - saving you and your staff time and money.

4. Use It Or Lose It - Combat Skill Atrophy: Possibly the biggest benefit from attending regular CE is the maintenance of your emergency response skills. Since we don't face emergencies every day, it's crucial for providers to remain vigilant and maintain their ER abilities. The right CE provider can make this process fun and refreshing.

Investment in your education will continue to pay you back the rest of your career.

Ready to take the next step into the world of dental sedation? Call (855) 406-7671 or visit www.ADMAtraining.org to learn more about available courses today!