

Oral Conscious Sedation Legislation

Permits are now applicable and available for practitioners utilizing oral conscious sedation pursuant to Code of Alabama, (1975) § 34-9-81, 34-9-81, 34-9-82, 34-9-83, 34-9-84, 34-9-85, 34-9-86, 34-9-87, 34-9-88, 34-9-89, 34-9-90 (and Board Rule 270-X-2.21) from the Board of Dental Examiners. If you are currently utilizing an oral conscious sedation protocol, you must obtain the appropriate permit from the Board to be compliant with Alabama law. If there is a question concerning OCS, please contact the Board office (205-985-7267). Some frequently asked questions are addressed below.

- 1) What is oral conscious sedation?
 - Definition in Code of Alabama, (1975) § 34-9-80(7)
- 2) What drugs /medications can be used for OCS?
- 3) If I only intend to induce anxiolysis via oral medication do I need an OCS permit?
 - This is a very important question and concept. While a permit is not required for anxiolysis (definition in Code of Alabama, (1975) § 34-9-80), the prudent practitioner realized that for some anxiolytic agents, a dosage that produces anxiolysis in one patient may actually induce mild to moderate sedation in another. Should this be a possibility in your practice, it would be advisable to obtain the appropriate training (or already possess it), and obtain an OCS permit. This would insure patient safety and practitioner's compliance.
- 4) What do I need to do to obtain a permit?
 - Contact the Board of Dental Examiners of Alabama to request an application.
- 5) When do I need to apply?
 - Immediately upon the intent to actually utilize OCS in your practice.
- 6) What is the cost of a permit?
 - Fee for the initial permit is \$100.00, with renewal fee of \$50.00.

One aspect of oral conscious sedation that is not specifically addressed in the legislation is OCS treatment of the pediatric patient. A permitted practitioner would be expected to have appropriate training in pediatric OCS before initiating utilization. Safe treatment of Alabama's pediatric patients is of the utmost importance to the Board, and it has confidence that Alabama's dentists hold to that same high standard. OCS is an excellent treatment modality and can reduce the trepidation some patients have concerning dental treatment. The Board welcomes input from Alabama's dental community as it continues to monitor OCS in the state, and thanks the Alabama Dental Association for assistance in the initial legislation process. Again, direct your questions/concerns to the Board.

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