Training in Conscious Sedation for Dental Nurses: Intended Learning Outcomes

National Examining Board for Dental Nurses

The following syllabus is designed to provide Dental Nurses with the educational experience, including the knowledge, critical understanding, intellectual skills, practical skills and personal attitude to enable them to provide effective and safe conscious sedation for dental patients.

	On successful completion of the programme, dental nurses should be able to:	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
Knowledge and critical understanding	Demonstrate an understanding of the role of conscious sedation techniques in dentistry Understand the range of control of pain and anxiety techniques Understand the importance and influence that the patients' general health may have on the use of conscious sedation Demonstrate the knowledge to practice effective conscious sedation Understand the importance of complying with contemporary guidance relating to the environment, facilities and equipment required for conscious sedation Demonstrate a critical understanding of the issues involved in the scientific basis of conscious sedation	CBL SDL ST	FA RoC
Intellectual skills	Understand limitations, benefits and risks of conscious sedation techniques. Recognise own limitations, reflect on experiences and appreciate the need for continuing education. Explain the concept of multidisciplinary care of patients and teamwork	CBL SDL ST	FA RoC
Practical skills	Assess patients who require conscious sedation for dentistry. Support the practice effective and safe conscious sedation. Assess recovery of patients from conscious sedation Remain calm, decisive and purposeful whilst handling difficulties or complications.	ACI CA CBL SDL ST	FA RoC
Personal attitude	Empathise with patients and demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with patients, parents, carers and colleagues	CA CBL SDL ST	RoC

Key: **Teaching and Learning methods**
ACI= Audit/Critical Incident Analysis, CA = Clinical Attachment, CBL= Case-Based Learning, SDL=Self-Directed Learning, ST=Structured Teaching
Assessment methodsFA= Formal Assessment, ROC= Record of Competence Incorporating: MSF = Multi-Source Feedback, PDP = Personal Development Portfolio, WBA = Workplace-Based Assessment

Reviewed and updated May 2019

Dental Nurses: Assisting During Conscious Sedation

1.   GENERAL PROFESSIONAL CONTENT

1.1   MAINTAINING GOOD CLINICAL PRACTICE

Each learning outcome should be prefaced by: 'On completion of training, the dental sedation nurse …'

Subject	Knowledge *…..should be able to describe:*	Skills *…..should be able to:*	Attitudes and Behaviours *…..should:*	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
1.1.1 **Professional approach**	the requirements of an effective dental sedation nurse the different models of working as part of a team	assist with the provision of conscious sedation techniques for dentistry	behave in a professional manner	CBL	RoC
1.1.2 **Life-long learning**	the requirements for continuing professional development	recognise and take advantage of learning opportunities for all members of the team providing conscious sedation for dentistry maintain a personal development portfolio monitor own performance through team audit and feedback	comply with General Dental Council requirements for revalidation	CBL SDL ST	RoC
1.1.3 **Evidence**	the principles of evidence-based practice	apply within the team evidence and recommendations of best practice provide constructive feedback within the dental sedation team	use evidence in support of patient care and to defend decisions taken	ST	RoC
1.1.4 **Written records**	the principles and guidelines for good clinical note keeping the reasons for confidentiality	communicate effectively through written records apply the principles of confidentiality in the context of written records	take account of confidentiality requirements and legal requirements relating to written, electronic and digital records, and their transport and storage	CBL ST	RoC

Subject	Knowledge …..should be able to describe:	Skills …..should be able to:	Attitudes and Behaviours …..should:	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
1.1.5 **Use of information technology**	the principles of retrieval and utilisation of data recorded in clinical systems	apply the principles of confidentiality in the context of information technology	take account of the legal aspects relating to holding electronic and digital records demonstrate a positive and proactive attitude to new technology	ACI ST	RoC
1.1.6 **Organisational framework for clinical governance and its application in practice**	the elements of clinical governance the principles of clinical governance, in particular related to infection control	participate actively in clinical governance participate in audit report serious untoward incidents	recognise the importance of teamwork in implementing a clinical governance framework recognise and take account of the learning from serious untoward incidents	ACI SDL ST	RoC
1.1.7 **Risk assessment and risk management**	the principles of risk assessment	carry out risk assessments apply relevant procedures monitor action plans to obviate further risk	recognise the value of risk assessments	ACI CBL	RoC
1.1.8 **Audit (general)**	the principles of internal and external quality assurance the audit process	have involvement in the completion of audit projects demonstrate improvement as the result of audit	recognise the benefit of audit to patient care and individual performance	ACI ST	RoC
1.1.9 **Guidelines**	the content of UK guidelines applicable to the practice and delivery of conscious sedation techniques in dentistry	Apply UK guidelines applicable to the practice and delivery of conscious sedation techniques in dentistry	show regard for individual patient needs when utilising guidelines	ACI CBL ST	RoC
1.1.10 **Patient Safety**	the principles of immediate life support and/or paediatric immediate life support the management of medical emergencies in the dental surgery the principles of management of fitness to practice cases The role of organisations charged with ensuring patient safety	perform immediate life support and/or paediatric immediate life support participate in the management of medical emergencies in the dental surgery	show regard for patient safety recognise the importance of team training in the management of medical emergencies in the dental surgery	CBL ST	RoC

Subject	Knowledge	Skills	Attitudes and Behaviours	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
	…..should be able to describe:	*…..should be able to:*	*…..should:*		
1.1.11 Relevance of outside bodies	the role of: - General Dental Council - Department of Health - National Examining Board for Dental Nurses - royal colleges - specialist societies - defence societies - patient advisory groups	communicate with and involve these bodies in appropriate situations	demonstrate acceptance of professional regulation share best practice participate in peer review	SDL ST	RoC

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1.2 RELATIONSHIPS WITH PATIENTS, PARENTS and CARERS

Each learning outcome should be prefaced by: "On completion of training, the dental sedation nurse …'

Subject	Knowledge *…..should be able to describe:*	Skills *…..should be able to:*	Attitudes and Behaviours *…..should:*	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
1.2.1 **Informed consent**	the principles of valid consent the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Scotland: Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 and Adults with Incapacity Amendment Regulations 2012) the process for gaining valid consent	play an active role in applying the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (Scotland: Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 and Adults with Incapacity Amendment Regulations 2012) work with other agencies to obtain a best interest decision and agreement to treat in circumstances where there is a lack of capacity play an active role in obtaining valid consent	respect patients' and parents'/carers' autonomy and wishes, including their right to refuse treatment even when it would be in their best interests	CBL SDL ST	RoC
1.2.2 **Confidentiality**	relevant strategies to ensure confidentiality the situations when confidentiality might be broken	apply the principles of confidentiality in relation to clinical care	respect the right to confidentiality	CBL SDL ST	RoC
1.2.3 **Legal issues**	the legal issues relating to the practice and delivery of conscious sedation techniques in dentistry	work within appropriate legal frameworks	demonstrate empathy while acting in the patient's /family's best interests	CBL SDL ST	RoC

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2. SEDATION RELATED CONTENT

Each learning outcome should be prefaced by: 'On completion of training, the dental sedation nurse …'

Subject	Knowledge …..should be able to describe:	Skills …..should be able to:	Attitudes and Behaviours …..should:	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
2.1 Dental anxiety	the history of pain and anxiety control in dentistry the causes, signs and symptoms of dental anxiety and phobia the spectrum of anxiety management techniques including behavioural/non-pharmacological methods, conscious sedation and general anaesthesia the distinction between conscious sedation and general anaesthesia and the definitions of each techniques for communicating with people of all ages and abilities	recognise advances in pain and anxiety control in dentistry recognise the causes, signs and symptoms of dental anxiety and phobia apply their knowledge of the spectrum of anxiety management techniques including behavioural/non-pharmacological methods, conscious sedation and general anaesthesia communicate with people of all ages and abilities	recognise the value of effective pain and anxiety control in dentistry demonstrate a caring attitude to anxious patients demonstrate a willingness to employ the most appropriate anxiety management technique for individual patients	SDL ST	FA RoC
2.2 Anatomy and physiology	anatomy and physiology relevant to the use of conscious sedation for dentistry, particularly: - cardiovascular - respiratory - neurological - potential cannulation sites the anatomical and physiological differences between children, young people and adults and how these relate to the use of conscious sedation impact of previous and current airway problems in order to anticipate potential difficulties during sedation or if ventilation is required	apply their knowledge of the anatomical structures and physiological in planning and providing conscious sedation apply their knowledge of the anatomical and physiological differences between children, young people and adults in providing conscious sedation		SDL ST	FA RoC

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Subject	Knowledge *.....should be able to describe:*	Skills *.....should be able to:*	Attitudes and Behaviours *.....should:*	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
2.3 **Pharmacology**	the applied pharmacology of drugs used in Basic conscious sedation for children, young people and adults: - nitrous oxide/oxygen - benzodiazepines - propofol - opioids - ketamine - sevoflurane the terminology describing levels of sedation (minimal, conscious, moderate, deep) and general anaesthesia important drug interactions: - between sedation drugs - of sedation drugs with other prescribed medication differences in the pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic effects when drugs are administered by different routes	apply their knowledge of pharmacology of drugs used in conscious sedation to the practical situation to ensure safe, effective and appropriate for the individual patient apply their knowledge of sedation drugs and prescribed medication to avoid drug interactions in the clinical setting	demonstrate a willingness to use this knowledge the provision of conscious sedation techniques in children, young people and adults	SDL ST	FA RoC
2.4 **Patient assessment**	the importance of obtaining accurate and detailed information about past and current medical/surgical conditions (e.g. current and previous medication , allergies) the need to ask for specialist medical advice or clarification of the patient's medical history and to liaise with personnel from other disciplines how information about medical problems associated with previous conscious sedation or anaesthesia may influence future management the relevance of the patient's ASA status	assist in the taking of a detailed medical, family, social and dental history to identify serious medical and surgical conditions that impact on safe delivery of conscious sedation	demonstrate a willingness to use this knowledge in the provision of conscious sedation appreciate the need to seek specialist medical advice or clarification of the patient's medical history and to liaise with personnel from other disciplines	SDL ST CA	FA RoC

Subject	Knowledge …..should be able to describe:	Skills …..should be able to:	Attitudes and Behaviours …..should:	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
	potential problems relating to the administration of conscious sedation for younger and older patients the use of weight and height data, growth charts and normal ranges to estimate a child's stage of physical development how the patient's psychological and developmental status may influence management how the planned dental procedure may influence the choice of conscious sedation technique the assessment of the suitability of peripheral veins for cannulation have knowledge of the evidence and guidance relating to fasting the provision of pre- and post-sedation instructions for patients and escorts in an age appropriate format appropriate communication techniques for children, young people and adults	provide pre- and post-sedation instructions for patients and escorts in an age appropriate format communicate effectively with children, young people and adults			
2.5 Assisting with the administration of sedation	the preparation of the patient prior to the administration of conscious sedation the preparation of the treatment area prior to the administration of conscious sedation the physical signs of both conscious (moderate) and deep sedation and how to recognise the conscious sedation endpoint	demonstrate the patient checks required prior to the administration of conscious sedation demonstrate the preparation of the notes, equipment and treatment area required prior to the administration of conscious sedation	show a caring attitude to the safety of the patient and the importance of preparation prior to the administration of conscious sedation show continuous regard for patient safety	ACI CA CBL SDL ST	FA RoC

Subject	Knowledge *…..should be able to describe:*	Skills *…..should be able to:*	Attitudes and Behaviours *…..should:*	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
	the equipment required for administration of intravenous, inhalational , oral and intranasal sedation	select the equipment required for administration of intravenous, inhalational oral and intranasal sedation			
	the selection of a peripheral vein for cannulation, the signs and symptoms of extravascular injection and the safe removal and disposal of an intravenous cannula	prepare and assist in the safe delivery of sedation drugs demonstrate how to assist with safe cannulation, including disposal of sharps and be able to cannulate patients if required			
	how to check an inhalational sedation machine and scavenging system	check an inhalational sedation machine and scavenging system			
	how to connect a breathing system, select an appropriate nasal mask and adjust the gas flow rate and mixture on an inhalational sedation machine	connect a breathing system, select an appropriate nasal mask and adjust the gas flow rate and mixture on an inhalational sedation machine			
	how to decontaminate the various parts of the inhalation sedation machine	effectively decontaminate the various parts of the inhalation sedation machine			
	how to clinically monitor a patient to determine the level of consciousness, co-operation, respiration, heart rate and skin colour and to respond appropriately to changes	clinically monitor patients to determine the level of consciousness, co-operation, respiration, heart rate and skin colour and to respond appropriately to changes			
	the use of appropriate electrical monitoring techniques (SaO2), NIBP, ECG, end tidal CO2, BIS) and how to respond to changes	select and demonstrate the use of appropriate electrical monitoring techniques and respond to changes			
	common electrical monitoring artefacts and malfunctions	recognise common electrical monitoring artefacts and malfunctions			
	appropriate drug dosage(s) appropriate drug administration techniques	draw up drugs safely and with regard to infection control and Health and Safety procedures			

Subject	Knowledge …..should be able to describe:	Skills …..should be able to:	Attitudes and Behaviours …..should:	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
	how to recognise the conscious sedation endpoint conscious sedation techniques including: - inhalation - intravenous - oral - transmucosal (intranasal. buccal) indications, advantages and disadvantages of administering intra- and post-operative supplemental oxygen using nasal cannulas the effectiveness of conscious sedation the approved procedure for clearing and disinfecting the treatment area between patients including the safe disposal of sedation equipment and unused drugs	demonstrate recognition of the conscious sedation endpoint and support the sedationist so as to avoid going beyond it demonstrate how to assist in the safe use of conscious sedation including: - inhalation - intravenous - oral - transmucosal (intranasal. buccal) administer intra- and post-operative supplementary oxygen as prescribed assess the effectiveness of conscious sedation demonstrate the approved procedure for clearing and disinfecting the treatment area between patients including the safe disposal of sedation equipment and unused drugs	appreciate the importance of adequate clearing of the treatment room and safe disposal of sedation equipment and unused drugs		
2.6 Good practice/ medico-legal requirements	the medico-legal requirements relating to administering sedation drugs the legal requirements of the members of the dental team both when there is an operator /sedationist or a separate operator and sedationist the training and responsibilities of the person (usually an appropriately trained and experienced Dental Nurse) who assists an operator-sedationist the situations in which a separate operator and sedationist are appropriate when it is safe to discharge a patient and when other actions might be required	act in accordance with the medico-legal requirements relating to administering sedation drugs act in accordance with the legal requirements for dental nurses and recognise those for other member of the team act in accordance with the requirements relating to the person (usually an appropriately trained and experienced Dental Nurse) who assists an operator-sedationist recognise the situations in which a separate operator and sedationist are required and act accordingly	recognise the role of all the members of the dental sedation team in the management of patients show regard for individual patient, family and/or carer needs recognise the importance of regular team training in the management of sedation/medical emergencies show regard for individual patient needs when utilising guidelines	ACI CA CBL SDL ST	FA RoC

Subject	Knowledge …..should be able to describe:	Skills …..should be able to:	Attitudes and Behaviours …..should:	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
	post-operative and aftercare instructions appropriate to each individual and taking into account their social circumstances the recognition and management of sedation-related complications, including: - over-sedation - respiratory depression - unconscious patient - airway obstruction - vomiting - anaphylaxis - delayed recovery - failure of conscious sedation current guidelines on: - gaining valid consent - teamwork - clinical holding/restraint - ending holding/restraint if required - appropriate record keeping - controlled drugs - 'off-licence' use of drugs	recognise when it is safe to discharge a patient and when other actions might be required provide patients with appropriate discharge and post-operative instructions in a format that they can understand recognise and manage sedation-related complications, including: - over-sedation - respiratory depression - unconscious patient - airway obstruction - vomiting - anaphylaxis - delayed recovery - failure of conscious sedation be able to apply current guidelines on: - gaining valid consent - teamwork - clinical holding/restraint - ending holding/restraint if required - appropriate record keeping - controlled drugs - 'off-licence' use of drugs			
2.7 **Training and continued professional development (CPD)**	the training required in order that the dental team can safely provide conscious sedation for dentistry the requirements for CPD to keep up to date with developments in conscious sedation techniques and their application to dentistry current Immediate Life Support and/or Advanced Paediatric Life Support	demonstrate through safe practice that the training required in order that the dental team can safely provide conscious sedation for dentistry is contemporaneous demonstrate through debate and safe practice that CPD is up to date with developments in conscious sedation techniques and their application to dentistry perform Immediate Life Support and/or Advanced Paediatric Life Support	keep up to date with developments in conscious sedation techniques and their application to dentistry be prepared to read and act on current literature on conscious sedation in dentistry	ACI CA CBL SDL ST	FA RoC

Subject	Knowledge *…..should be able to describe:*	Skills *…..should be able to:*	Attitudes and Behaviours *…..should:*	Teaching and Learning method(s)	Assessment method(s)
	the current the literature on conscious sedation drugs and techniques the importance of relevant clinical audit	be actively involved in relevant clinical audit			

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