



The Dental Examiner

Sedation Inspections, Be Prepared - Kevin Lucky, DDS

Sedation inspections and facility checks are essential, whether for first-time permitting or permit renewals. To ensure the safety and efficiency of your dental practice, thorough preparation for your inspection is critical.

Once you've scheduled your inspection, the board will provide a checklist to guide your preparation. It is important to meticulously follow this checklist. Common issues found during inspections include:

- Missing or out-of-date emergency drugs
- Non-functioning or expired AED batteries
- Out-of-date AED pads

Many practices rely on services to monitor and replace drugs as they expire. However, it is ultimately your (the permit holder's) responsibility—not the service provider's—to ensure that all emergency drugs and equipment are current and in proper working order.

When the examiner arrives at your practice, please have all emergency drugs and equipment out and readily available for inspection. This will help avoid the common issue of disorganization. For example, expired drugs should never be found in emergency drug kits. Additionally, all required paperwork and certificates should be copied and ready to provide to the examiner upon their arrival.

When choosing a case for your inspection, short, simple procedures are best. Examples include small fillings, single extractions, uncovering an implant, or cementing a crown. These cases allow the examiners to observe what is necessary for the inspection. **If you are a Class 4 permit holder or are applying for a Class 4 permit, you must administer the appropriate drugs and doses to achieve general anesthesia, not conscious sedation.*

Adhering to the rules and guidelines for sedation dentistry is crucial. Failure to do so may result in delayed renewals or failed inspections, necessitating a repeat process.

Many people gain access to oral health care through sedation dentistry that they may otherwise not receive. Therefore, as a profession, we must maintain high standards to not only ensure the safety of our patients but also to keep sedation dentistry viable and available in the state of West Virginia.

If you have any questions prior to your office visit, your examiner will be able to help you when they call to schedule your inspection, or you may contact the WV Board of Dentistry. Together, we will help more patients through sedation dentistry.

Dr. Lucky is a member of the Anesthesia Committee

Article from the Fall 2024 Newsletter

Don't Slack on Standards—Kimberly A. Lowe, RDA

Exceeding the standard of care in a dental practice means providing a level of care that SURPASSES the minimum acceptable level or "Standard of Care."

During Covid we all learned the importance of going above and beyond to not only keep patients safe but to keep ourselves, our staff and our families safe. We learned that everything has changed since the pandemic, prices of supplies went up, staff became hard to maintain and hiring staff became nearly impossible, but through all the lessons Covid taught us, the most valuable one was our relationships with our patients.

Why is exceeding the standard of care important?

- * Patient satisfaction: Providing exceptional care can lead to higher patient satisfaction, loyalty and compliance.
- * Reduced risk of malpractice: Adhering to or exceeding the standard of care can help mitigate the risk of malpractice claims.
- * Professional reputation: A reputation for providing high-quality care can enhance a dental practice's standing in the community.
- * Infection Control standards: Infection control standards are in place to keep everyone safe. It is critical to your practice and your patients to follow proper infection control standards at all times. There are many fantastic resources to help aid you with any questions you may have about infection control.

How can we exceed the standard of care?

- * Continuing education: Stay up-to-date with the latest dental techniques, technologies, and research. Invest in staff, take them to in person CE courses, their knowledge will shine through to your patients.
- * Invest in technology: Utilize advanced equipment and software to improve diagnosis and treatment, improve work flow and efficiency of your practice.
- * Communication: Taking an extra few minutes to talk to your patients can stop a lot of misunderstandings and correct issues before they start, sometimes we forget that we talk about the same things everyday but for our patients, this is all new to them and a greater understanding will cause much less confusion.
- * Prioritize patient comfort: Create a relaxing and welcoming environment for patients. Offer sedation/Nitrous Oxide options for anxious patients within the parameters of the law. Provide personalized treatment plans tailored to individual needs.
- * Going the extra mile to ensure patient satisfaction, such as following up after procedures or offering flexible appointment times.

By consistently exceeding the standard of care, dental practices can build trust with patients, improve outcomes, maintain patient loyalty and avoid complaints. The Board is here to protect the public. Let's all serve our State to the best of our ability. Remember it's about quality and not quantity!

Happy Fall Y'all

Kim Lowe, RDA

Article from the Fall 2024 Newsletter