

## **Nitrous Oxide Administration and Monitoring**

Hygienists and registered dental assistants are allowed to administer and monitor patients under nitrous oxide if they have a permit issued by the Board. This proposal would offer the same opportunity to dental assistants if they meet the same requirements and have graduated from high school and are at least 18 years of age.

## **Education and Training**

The outline for a Board-approved course offered by a dental assisting program in South Dakota is below.

Typical outline for a course that **administers** N2O is:

1. Dental Anxiety and Phobia
  - a. History and Safety of N2O/O2
  - b. Abuse and Social use of N2O/O2
2. Levels of Sedation
  - a. Advantages and Disadvantages of N2O Sedation
  - b. Technique/Titration of N2O/O2
3. Equipment/Safety
4. Pharmacology of N2O/Physiology
  - a. Signs and Symptoms of proper sedation
  - b. Signs and Symptoms of Over sedation
5. Administration of N2O/O2 sedation
  - a. Patient Monitoring
  - b. Complications and Toxic effects
  - c. Pediatric use of N2O/O2 sedation
  - d. Medically Compromised Patients and N2O/O2 sedation
  - e. Medical emergencies
6. Health Hazards and Protection from Exposure to N2O/O2 sedation
  - a. Scavenger systems

Typical outline for a course that **monitors** N2O is:

1. Dental Anxiety
2. Introduction to equipment
3. Monitoring sedation
  - a. Signs and Symptoms of proper sedation
  - b. Signs and Symptoms of over sedation
4. Medical Emergencies
  - a. Complications and Toxic Effects
5. Health Hazards and Protection from Exposure to N2O/O2 sedation
  - a. Scavenger systems

## **Competency Examination**

As a component of the course above the dental assistant must administer nitrous oxide to two live patients under the general supervision of a dentist.