

## BRIEFING NOTE

<b>PURPOSE:</b>	<b>Update Sedation Standards &amp; Guidelines to ensure pediatric patients receive safe administration of moderate sedation</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	May 24, 2019
<b>PREPARED FOR:</b>	The Board
<b>PREPARED BY:</b>	Dr. Toby Bellamy
<b>TOPIC:</b>	Pediatric Moratorium

### SITUATION:

A moratorium is placed on the approval of certification to provide moderate sedation to patients 12 years old and under who have learned the modality in a short course format (i.e. less than one year).

As pediatric patients' health can be compromised with significant irreversible adverse effects in an extremely short period of time, the Committee recommends that registrants who have learned moderate pediatric sedation in a short-course format (i.e. less than one year) are prohibited from administering moderate sedation patients under 12 years of age or younger in out-of-hospital dental facilities.

### BACKGROUND:

The College Board moved to place a moratorium on pediatric moderate sedation in response to The Sedation & General Anaesthetic Services Committee's concerns regarding registrants' training for pediatric moderate parenteral sedation in November 2016. The tragic case that transpired in Alberta involving a 4-year-old patient highlighted these risks and proved that these procedures must be performed with more precautionary measures.

Pediatric sedation at that time was not specifically addressed in the Standards and Guidelines, as the Committee expected only medical anaesthetists and dentists with substantive training and qualifications would provide this modality. Up until the emergence of "short-form" (i.e. less than one year) courses that offered moderate parenteral sedation, only multi-year programs attached to accredited programs offered this modality's training. Leading experts in the fields from Canada and USA expressed grave concerns regarding the safety and efficacy of these "short form" programs; these apprehensions were also shared by the pediatric dentistry community and Faculty of UBC. As a result, the Board motion below was carried:



*That the College places a moratorium on the approval of certification to provide moderate sedation to patients 12 years old and under who have learned the modality in a short course format (i.e. less than one year). This would be in place for one year until further studies on the safety of this modality can be investigated.*

In November 2017, the Committee presented the Commission on Dental Accreditation's (CODA) requirements for advanced pediatric programs and explained they are significantly greater than those currently recognized in British Columbia. The Committee stressed again that moderate sedation procedures for 12 years of age and under pose high risks for patients. The Committee requested an extension on the moratorium to thoroughly analyze the situation and provide recommendations to the Board. Therefore, the motion below was carried:

*That the Moratorium on new applications to register credentials to provide moderate pediatric sedation (patients 12 years of age and under) for dentists who have learned the modality in a short-course format (i.e. less than one year) be extended for a further year, or until the new criteria for the registration of qualifications have become a part of the standard.*

The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario also shares the same stance on this matter. Recently, they have published their revised Sedation & General Anaesthetic Standards and Guidelines where it is mandated that only registrants who are authorized to administer deep sedation and general anaesthesia may provide moderate intravenous sedation to pediatric patients (12 years of age and under) in non-hospital settings.

In November 2018, the Board approved the motion below:

*The Moratorium on new applications to register credentials to provide moderate pediatric Sedation (patients 12 years of age and under) for dentists who have learned the modality in a short-course format (i.e. less than one year) be extended until such time as the Committee determines new criteria for registration of qualifications and they have become a part of the standard. The Committee will be submitting a substantive input for the February Board meeting indicating the efforts being made and the direction the Committee is intending to go.*

## **ASSESSMENT:**

Sedation of the pediatric patient is complex, even for a certified pediatric dentist who has had years of training in a supervised setting. Deaths have occurred with practitioners who have attempted pediatric sedation without the proper knowledge, skill and expertise in dealing with potential life-threatening complications that can and do occur.

Pediatric moderate sedation learned through short-course formats (i.e. less than one year) appears to increase the risk of morbidity and mortality for patients.

As there is no pediatric oral sedation course in British Columbia, those who are currently providing moderate sedation to pediatric patients most likely learned it through providing multiple oral sedatives for adults.



Sedation is a continuum. Hence, the requirements should be regulated by the provision of intended level. In other words, moderate sedation is moderate sedation, regardless of the administration method.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The addition to the Minimal & Moderate Sedation Standards and Guidelines will read as follows:

Patients who are under 12 years of age are not acceptable for administration of moderate sedation (both oral and parenteral) in out-of-hospital dental facilities, except by practitioners who are qualified and authorized to provide deep sedation and/or general anaesthesia as well as those who have completed training in a formal postgraduate program in paediatric dentistry.

Development of criteria to assess registrants who do not meet these requirements but wish to provide such services are underway.

**RELEVANT ATTACHMENTS:**

Revised Minimal and Moderate Sedation Standards & Guidelines

**NEXT STEPS:**

Update Minimal and Moderate Sedation Standards & Guidelines.

Pediatric moderate sedation learned through short course formats will no longer be approved nor accepted.

Only practitioners who are qualified and authorized to provide deep sedation and/or general anaesthesia as well as those who have completed training in a formal program to treat pediatric patients may provide moderate sedation to patients 12 years of age and younger.