

**SOUTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DENTISTRY**  
**POLICY**

**MONITORING OF NITROUS OXIDE ANALGESIA**

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. Section 40-15-80 and Regs. 39-12; 39-13 and 39-14

Licensed Dental Hygienists and Expanded Duty Dental Assistants are authorized to monitor nitrous oxide conscious sedation (analgesia) upon:

- 1) successful completion of a Board-approved course;
- 2) successful completion of the State Board Examination, and
- 3) certification by the Board.

**NOTE:** The Board has defined the term "Monitor" to mean carrying out the orders of the dentist, to include the initiation of the flow of the nitrous oxide component. The certified auxiliary may then maintain that flow or decrease the level of nitrous oxide component when oxygenating the patient, without the specific direction of the dentist. The dentist must determine the need and level of nitrous oxide sedation regarding a particular patient. The dentist must diagnose the need for a patient to receive nitrous oxide and may designate the certified auxiliary to place the mask and set the nitrous oxide component at a level specified for that patient.

Approved by the Board: June 24, 2001

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Rion Alvey, Administrator