



10/23/2024

Dear Members of the Board,

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining and expanding the guidelines that allow pediatric dentists to utilize moderate sedation for patients under the age of nine. As a pediatric dentist in our community, I frequently refer patients to pediatric dentists who are board eligible/certified, who have undergone the necessary training and certification to safely perform moderate sedation for patients of all ages during their pediatric dental residency training.

Currently, the proposed guidelines would prohibit pediatric dentists from using moderate sedation on patients aged eight and under. This restriction goes against current best practices as outlined by the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The guidelines must support these standards, which recognize moderate sedation as an essential tool in providing safe and effective dental care.

Moderate sedation offers significant benefits for young patients, particularly those who experience dental fear or anxiety, specially when simple/moderate dental procedures are required for an anxious child, deeper IV sedation may be unnecessary and costly.

Pediatric dental residents and graduates should be able to practice in various states based on their training without facing barriers to licensure. Currently, New Hampshire's proposed guidelines deviate from those of other states, and make recruiting additional providers to NH difficult in the future.

Removing the option of moderate sedation limits the pediatric dentist's ability to tailor treatment to each child's unique needs. As a pediatric dentist who choose not to perform moderate sedation, I rely on other pediatric dentists in NH refer patients to, specially when parents prefer a less invasive option than IV sedation. Without access to moderate sedation, these families may find themselves likely to seek care out of state, leading to increased costs and other difficulties.

Need of a second provider for moderate sedation cases in patients under eight would create a significantly delayed access to care for many children in need specially in emergency situations where timely intervention is critical. Affordability of IV sedation is another issue, making moderate sedation a more accessible and cost-effective option for obtaining necessary emergency dental care.

In conclusion, I urge the board to reconsider the proposed restrictions on moderate sedation for pediatric dentists. Supporting the ability of these specialists to utilize moderate sedation is vital for ensuring that all children in our community have access to safe, effective, and compassionate dental care.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nadarajah Ganeshkumar".

Nadarajah Ganeshkumar, DMD