Administration of General Anesthetic Agents

Education Law 6605-a provides that a licensed dentist shall not employ conscious sedation, deep sedation or general anesthesia in the practice of dentistry, at any location other than a general hospital, without a dental anesthesia certificate issued by the department. Part 61.10 of the Commissioner’s regulations provides for the issuance of different types of dental anesthesia certificates and sets forth the educational and training requirements required to obtain such certificates.

Section 61.10 (b) (2) (i) of the Commissioner’s regulations provides that certificates in dental general anesthesia authorizes a licensed dentist to employ conscious (moderate) sedation (enteral or parenteral route with or without inhalation agents), deep sedation, and general anesthesia. Due to the potential complications and patient safety concerns that may arise during the administration of deep sedation using general anesthetic agents, dentists must meet the required training, experience and certification requirements to obtain a dental general anesthesia certificate in accordance with the regulations. As a general rule, dentists must hold a current dental general anesthesia (deep sedation) certificate in order to employ deep sedation and general anesthesia through the administration of general anesthetic and deep sedation agents including but not limited to, Ketamine and Propofol, by any route of administration outside a hospital or dental school-based practice. Dentists holding dental certificates in other titles, such as dental parenteral conscious (moderate) sedation and dental enteral conscious (moderate) sedation, whether issued for patients 13 years or older or 12 years or younger, should not be utilizing or administering general anesthetic and deep sedation agents, outside a hospital or dental school-based practice, regardless of the level of sedation achieved when utilizing these agents.

A certificate in dental general anesthesia (deep sedation) may be granted based upon, among other things, the following criteria:

1. completion of a 2-year post-doctoral education program in dental anesthesia (completion of a Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited residency in dental anesthesiaology); or
2. completion of 3- years of post-doctoral education in dental anesthesia, acceptable to the Department and accredited by an acceptable accrediting body (completion of a Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited residency in dental anesthesiaology); or
3. completion of a graduate level program in oral & maxillofacial surgery acceptable to the Department and accredited by an acceptable accrediting body (completion of a Commission on Dental Accreditation accredited residency in oral & maxillofacial surgery).

For more information on general anesthesia/deep sedation certificates please review New York Education Law §6605-a, Part 86.10 of the Commissioner’s Regulations and the New York State Office of Professions Dental Professions website at http://www.op.nysed.gov/prof/dent/