



College of Alberta Dental Assistants

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Position Statement

Conscious Sedation: The RDA's Role

Registered Dental Assistants may provide a supportive role in assisting with dental procedures and observing patient condition when conscious sedation is used as an adjunct to treatment providing the registered dental assistant remains within his/her scope of practice, education /training and is competent in the appropriate knowledge and abilities. Monitoring of patients by the RDA shall be limited to the scope of the Registered Dental Assistant's education, training and competence. It is the joint responsibility of the RDA and the supervising practitioner to determine competence.

Rationale

Current dental assisting education includes obtaining vital signs (temperature, respirations, blood pressure and pulse). Registered Dental Assistants are also knowledgeable about adverse reactions to topical and local anaesthetics and unusual reactions to some materials.

Registered Dental Assistants do not administer drugs (including nitrous oxide, oral medications and intravenous drugs) and may not cut tissue. Therefore their role would be limited to observing and reporting patient condition, documenting observations and assisting with the prescribed dental treatment within the scope of their training, education and level of competence.

It is the professional responsibility of the Registered Dental Assistant to ensure that all services are provided within the individual's registration, education and competence.