

VIRGINIA BOARD OF DENTISTRY
PUBLIC HEARING ON
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS RELATING TO PROVISION OF
SEDATION AND ANESTHESIA
NOVEMBER 13, 2020

TIME & PLACE: This public hearing was called to order at 9:34 AM, on November 13, 2020 at the Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia 23233.

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Reen called the telephonic public hearing to order and explained the purpose of this hearing is to receive comments on the proposed amendments to regulations relating to the provision of sedation and anesthesia.

STAFF PRESENT AT THE PERIMETER CENTER: Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director
Tracey Arrington-Edmonds, Licensing Manager

STAFF PRESENT BY TELEPHONE: Jamie C. Sacksteder, Deputy Executive Director
Elaine J. Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dr. Chris R. Richardson addressed the proposed three person sedation treatment team. He said the history of safety in administering conscious sedation is nearly 100% and his practice has had zero incidents using a two-person team. He does not support requiring a three person team for moderate sedation, saying that there is no literature which supports requiring a third person and no state which requires three staff members to be present in the treatment room. He said it is important to recognize that the patient is conscious during moderate sedation and a third person will raise the cost to patients. He asked the Board to not increase the burdens for providing moderate sedation.

Dr. Stephanie Voth said requiring a three person treatment team is not well supported and it would increase costs and limit access. She works with a nurse anesthetist on certain cases when medically necessary. She feels this proposed regulation needs to be reconsidered.

Ms. Michelle Satterlund said she is speaking on behalf of the Virginia Association of Nurse Anesthetists (VANA). She said written comments have been sent to the Board. She said the concern is that the Board allows unpermitted dentists to work with anesthesiologists but not nurse anesthetists. She added that this is a confusing double standard creating a restraint on trade. She said this is not consistent with what the Federal Trade Commission has encouraged boards to do. VANA is very concerned about these regulations and asks the Board to reconsider the double standard which reduces access to care, especially in rural communities where nurse anesthetists are the major providers of anesthesia. She said there is no indication that there is a difference in the quality of care and asked that dentists without a permit be allowed to practice with nurse anesthetists.


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Ms. Yeatts asked Ms. Satterlund to clarify if she is asking that nurse anesthetists be allowed to provide sedation for dental hygienists treating patients. Ms. Satterlund responded that there is a remote dentist and CRNA's would provide sedation so patients could be treated. Ms. Yeatts expressed concern about the explanation and Ms. Satterlund responded that it was just an example which has a telehealth component.

Dr. Thomas Glazier said that the American Dental Association's specialty recognizing body has recognized the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists as the tenth dental specialty. He said several national organizations collaborated to develop anesthesia guidelines for management of sedation in a dental office. He said the guidelines address a two person team as the standard of care for moderate sedation. He asked the Board to make a decision based on evidence and not feelings. He reported there is no literature to support a three person team for moderate sedation. He also noted that a three person team would increase the risk for COVID-19 and the costs to patients. He is not aware of any state in the USA that requires a 3 person team for moderate sedation.

Dr. Yousuf Al-Aboosi stated his appreciation for the Board's interest in increasing patient safety then went on to say there is no evidence that supports requiring a three person team for medically healthy patients receiving moderate sedation. He explained the monitoring equipment has alarms so dentists and staff will know when intervention is needed to manage the patient. He added that a three person team raises the risks of exposure to COVID-19, could be disruptive to nervous patients and will increase overhead.

Ms. Reen provided information on submitting written comments and announced that the comment period on this regulatory proposal expires today, November 13, 2020. She then adjourned the hearing at 10:08 AM.



Sandra K. Reen, Executive Director

November 23, 2020

Date