Policy · DEN-POL-003 · Version 1.0 · Approved by the ASF Expert Committee

Supports: 31.15

At a glance

- Sedation is given only by a clinician competent in the technique (STF-FRM-001).
- Monitoring is continuous from start to discharge and recorded (DEN-FRM-005).
- The emergency equipment for sedation is checked before each case (DEN-REG-004).
- A patient is not sedated without an assessment and consent.
- Stop and get help straight away if: a patient is sedated with no competent clinician, no monitoring or no emergency equipment.

1. Purpose

To make sure sedation is given safely, only by competent clinicians, and monitored from start to discharge (31.15).

2. Scope

Applies to	Clinical and support staff in the hospital
Locations	All wards, clinics and departments of the facility
When	Whenever the activity described is carried out
Does not apply to	Activities covered by another document listed in section 15

3. Definitions

Term	Meaning
Clinical lead	The doctor or nurse in charge of the area at the time

4. Background

Sedation and general anaesthesia in a dental clinic carry the same risks as in hospital. They must be given only by staff with the competence to manage them, with continuous monitoring.

5. Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility	Competence
Clinical director	Approves who may sedate and the technique	Medical director
Sedating clinician	Assesses, sedates and monitors the patient	Clinical director

6. Materials and equipment

Item	Requirement	Condition
Records and forms named in this document	Current version	Checked before use

7. Safety

- Stop and call for help if a patient is at immediate risk. Do not delay urgent care to complete paperwork.

8. Before you start

- Confirm the forms and equipment named in this document are available and current.

9. Procedure

Step 1. Assess.

- Assess the patient and record the fitness for sedation.

Key point: Assessed.

Step 2. Sedate and monitor.

- Sedate under the approved technique and monitor continuously (DEN-FRM-005).

Key point: Monitored.

Step 3. Recover.

- Keep the patient monitored through recovery until discharge criteria are met.

Key point: Discharged.

10. Decision points

- No decision points in this procedure.

11. Special situations

Situation	Action
Out of hours	Follow the same steps. Use the on-call contact on the wall of the area.

12. Escalation

- Any serious problem goes to the duty clinical lead at once and to the clinical director the same day.

13. Monitoring

Measure	Target	Frequency	Owner	If not met
Sedations with a continuous monitoring record	100%	Monthly	Clinical director	Escalate to the medical director

14. Records

Record	Kept in	Retention
Record named in this document	Patient record or the area file	the period set by the facility’s records policy years

15. Training

- Staff are trained in this document at induction and refreshed each year, with a recorded competency check.

16. Related documents

ID	Title	Use
DEN-FRM-005	Sedation monitoring record	Record

17. Evidence

Reference	Note
E-009	
E-006	ASF Policy Framework v1.2. Adapted.
E-009	ASF Expert Committee consensus.

18. Change history

Version	Date	What changed	Approval
1.0	the date of approval	First version	set Expert Committee approval

E-learning for this document

- **Dental Practice: Five Safety Criteria at the Chair** (AMB-08)

References

- Accréditation Sans Frontières (2026). ASF Policy Framework v1.2. (E-006)
- Accréditation Sans Frontières (2026). ASF Expert Committee consensus on Standard 1. (E-009)

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