

# WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

**Issue Date:** 18 June 2018

**STATUS: COMPLIANCE**

**CATEGORY: QUALITY & SAFETY**

**Title: Dental Services: Service Standards for Conscious Sedation in a dental care setting**

**Date of Review**  
May 2021

**For Action by:**  
Chief Executives, Local Health Boards  
All dental services providing or planning to  
provide conscious sedation in a dental care  
setting in Wales

**Action required by:**  
Immediate

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**Enclosure(s): Annex 1: Service Standards for Conscious Sedation in a dental care setting**

## **Dental Services: Service Standards for Conscious Sedation in a dental care setting**

This Welsh Health Circular introduces new Service Standards for Conscious Sedation in a dental care setting. The service standards are available here:

<https://gov.wales/conscious-sedation-guidance-health-boards-and-dental-health-professionals>

The Welsh Health Circular and the standards replace a number of documents:

- Standing Dental Advisory Committee (SDAC) 2003 Guidance 'Conscious Sedation in the Provision of Dental Care';
- SDAC 2007 'Standards for Conscious sedation in Dentistry: Alternative Techniques';
- Commissioning conscious sedation services in primary dental care – Department of Health, June 2007;
- Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP) Conscious Sedation in Dentistry, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 2012.
  
- Independent Expert Group on Training Standards for Sedation in Dentistry (IEGTSSD) Guides – Paediatric | Advanced Conscious Sedation Techniques for Paediatric Patients – Training Syllabus;
- IEGTSSD Guides – CPD – A Guide to Maintaining Professional Standards in Conscious Sedation for Dentistry;
- IEGTSSD Guides – Adult – Advanced Conscious Sedation Techniques for Adult Patients Training Syllabus.

The standards should be used by health boards which commission and/or provide NHS dental conscious sedation services and dental teams who provide these services. They will also be relevant for those providing private dental conscious sedation services.

**Health boards need to work with existing providers and agree a timetable for adoption of these new standards. Health boards and providers should aim to comply as soon as possible but in any event all providers must be compliant with the standards by 1 April 2020.**

The Welsh Health Circular and standards clarify the Welsh Government's requirements for conscious sedation in dental care. They reflect the "Service Standards for Conscious Sedation in a Primary Care Setting" published in England in 2017:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/commissioning-dental-services-service-standards-for-conscious-sedation-in-a-primary-care-setting/>.

The standards focus on and describe the consensus regarding conscious sedation in dentistry and the need for change following the publication of:

- Safe Sedation Practice for Healthcare Procedures: Standards and Guidance, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC), 2013
- The Intercollegiate Advisory Committee for Sedation in Dentistry (IACSD) Standards for Conscious Sedation in the Provision of Dental Care, 2015
- Conscious Sedation in Dentistry, third edition, published by Scottish Dental Clinical Effectiveness Programme (SDCEP), 2017

The standards:

- support health boards to contract and/or provide safe and effective conscious sedation in dental care;
- support clinicians and their teams to provide safe and effective care in line with agreed standards; and
- further outline the Welsh Government's policy intentions.

The standards align with the Welsh Government's NHS Planning Framework (2018 to 2021) which includes requirements for:

- Quality and Safety – the constant driving of improvement in safety, outcomes, efficiency and service user satisfaction; and
- Prudent and value based healthcare - healthcare that fits the needs and circumstances of patients.

They also support the wider aims of the National Strategy *'Prosperity for All'* which sets out a shared view of the strategic priorities and the choices about health and care services in the future.

Policy leads, clinicians and health boards have contributed to the development of the standards which describe how dental care with sedation should develop to ensure patient safety, consistency and excellence in NHS dental care sedation services

The service standards will be reviewed and updated periodically to ensure they remain up to date.

### **Statutory Framework**

The statutory powers and duties of the NHS in Wales are mainly contained within the NHS (Wales) Act 2006. Whilst the NHS Act 2006 applies to the NHS in England, it also contains some legislation that applies to both England and Wales.

The NHS (Wales) Act 2006 consolidates a range of regulatory requirements relating to the promotion and provision of the health service in Wales. It sets out:

- Welsh Ministers' duty to promote health service; and
- General power to provide services.

As well as:

- Provisions of particular services;
- Provision of services otherwise than in Wales;
- NHS Contracts; and
- Provision of services otherwise than by Welsh Ministers.

Section 72 places a duty on NHS bodies to co-operate with each other in exercising their functions.