

AREAS OF PRACTICE ADJUNCTIVE TO DENTISTRY

1 Introduction

- 1.1 Boards and other regulatory authorities in Australia have introduced specific requirements, including educational programmes, which dentists must fulfil if they are to include certain areas of practice adjunctive to dentistry. However, such requirements do not confer any special status.
- 1.2 The Australian Dental Council (ADC) offers a process for certification of programmes which are a requirement to gain endorsement to practise in areas adjunctive to dentistry.
- 1.3 **Definitions**
 - 1.3.1 BOARD is a State or Territory dental registration Board.
 - 1.3.2 AREAS OF PRACTICE ADJUNCTIVE TO DENTISTRY are parts of dental practice which are usually not unique to dentistry, nor part of undergraduate dental education and training. These could include acupuncture, conscious sedation for dental procedures, hypnosis, and external cosmetic procedures.
 - 1.3.3 CONSCIOUS SEDATION means a technique in which the use of a drug or drugs administered by the intravenous route produces a state of depression of the central nervous system enabling treatment to be carried out, and in which:
 - verbal contact with the patient can be maintained or the patient responds appropriately to stimulation; and
 - the drugs and techniques used have a margin of safety wide enough to render unintended loss of consciousness unlikely.

2 Principles

- 2.1 Dentists who practise in an area adjunctive to dentistry would be expected to complete a recognised programme of training and satisfy other specified criteria to ensure the safety of the public. Satisfying such criteria would not lead to specialist registration, but may be a requirement of a Board in order for a dentist to practise in such adjunctive areas.
- 2.2 Boards should endorse the registration of any dentist who has fulfilled the requirements to practise in an area adjunctive to dentistry.
- 2.3 Dentists must only include areas of practice adjunctive to dentistry if they have fulfilled the Board requirements.
- 2.4 Any educational requirements for areas of practice adjunctive to dentistry should be certified by the ADC.

3 **Policy**

- 3.1 Where a Board requires endorsement to practise in an area adjunctive to dentistry, a dentist must obtain such endorsement prior to commencing practice in that area.
- 3.2 To ensure uniformity, the ADC is the appropriate body to certify educational requirements for areas of practice adjunctive to dentistry.
- 3.3 Endorsement of areas of practice adjunctive to dentistry does not confer specialist status.
- 3.4 Areas of practice adjunctive to dentistry that should require Board endorsement include acupuncture, conscious sedation for dental procedures, and external cosmetic procedures.

Policy Statement 2.5

Adopted by ADA Federal Council, November 11/12, 2004.
Amended by ADA Federal Council, November 13/14, 2008.