

Policy Statement 6.25 – Medical Emergencies in Dental Practice¹

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Dentists have to manage a variety of medical emergencies in the course of dental practice. They have been educated and trained to deal with the range of situations that may arise.

Definitions

- 1.2. BOARD is the Dental Board of Australia.
- 1.3. DENTAL PRACTICE STAFF are all personnel working in a dental practice.
- 1.4. DENTAL PRACTITIONER is a person registered by the Board to provide dental care.
- 1.5. DENTIST is an appropriately qualified dental care provider, registered by the Board to practise all areas of dentistry.
- 1.6. MEDICAL EMERGENCY is where the health status of an individual deteriorates unexpectedly.

2. Principles

- 2.1. Assessment and mitigation of risk and prior preparation enhance the management of medical emergencies.
- 2.2. Safe and competent management of medical emergencies requires dentists and dental practice staff to maintain their competence in first aid and CPR.

3. Policy

- 3.1. The management of emergencies and the techniques for resuscitation change from time to time. Dentists should ensure they remain current. Regular "hands on" training is recommended for dentists and their staff.
- 3.2. Dental practices should have a written protocol for responding to medical emergencies.
- 3.3. The management of medical emergencies should be based on the current version of Therapeutic Guidelines: Oral and Dental and guidelines issued by the Australian Resuscitation Council.
- 3.4. There should be regular review of the written medical emergency protocol and all staff should be trained in its use.

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Adopted by ADA Federal Council, April 18/19, 2013.

Amended by ADA Federal Council, April 14/15, 2016.

¹ This Policy Statement is linked to other Policy Statements: 6.17 Sedation in Dentistry (including the ADA Guidelines for Conscious Sedation in Dentistry & 6.23 Prescribing Medications in Dentistry