

22 September 2016

Marie Warner
Chief Executive
Dental Council of New Zealand
PO Box 10-448
WELLINGTON 6143



Dear Marie

Re: Consultation on an updated sedation practice standard

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the consultation on an updated practice standard issued by the Dental Council of New Zealand (the Dental Council) on 22 July 2016. I would like to acknowledge the extensive work of the external consultants and the Dental Council regarding the proposed standard.

The Ministry's response to the consultation document is as follows:

Q.1. Agree

Q2. What exactly will 'formal training' consist of? Is it, for example, a half-day or day lecture at NZDA head office or similar, with or without a hands-on component, or will it involve more time and be more demanding in terms of a certification process? The depth of the new standard may be quite intimidating for many practitioners who currently use oral sedation. Whilst protection of the public must be paramount, many practitioners will simply stop using oral sedation due to what may be perceived as onerous new protocols and the anxious patient may find it hard to locate a practitioner who can treat them under sedation. This of course means that for some people, they will not be able to receive treatment and their oral health outcomes may be less than optimal.

Q. 3 and 4. Agree

Q. 5. No further comment is required.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely

Dr Riana Clarke
National Clinical Director, Oral Health