



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ANESTHESIOLOGISTS

Date: March 4, 2022
Committee: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass, Chair
House Health and Government Affairs Committee
Bill: House Bill 968 - Health Occupations - Dental Assistants - Certification and Regulation
Position: Letter of Information

The Maryland Society of Anesthesiologists (MSA) is a State component society of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA). The MSA is a non-profit physician organization dedicated to promoting the safest and highest standards of the profession of anesthesiology in the State of Maryland. Our purpose is to advocate on behalf of our members for their patients through policy, education, and research.

As introduced House Bill 968, among other provisions, “authorizes a certified dental assistant to “monitor nitrous oxide”. This would be a newly defined task for dental assistants who achieve certification from the Board of Dental Examiners. We offer the following amendment as a means to ensure clarity of the services to be performed by the certified dental assistant with respect to the monitoring of nitrous oxide. This reflects language that exists in Maryland regulation regarding monitoring of nitrous oxide by registered dental hygienists.

AMENDMENT:

Page 4, Line 6 strike “; OR” and Insert the following after “OXIDE”

WHICH MEANS THE OBSERVATION OF THE PATIENT:

- (A) DURING THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE;**
- (B) DURING THE REDUCTION OF THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE;**
- (C) DURING THE SHUTTING OFF OF THE EQUIPMENT CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE; AND**
- (D) AT ALL TIMES IN BETWEEN THE START OF THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE UNTIL AFTER NITROUS OXIDE HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND THE PATIENT HAS FULLY AWOKEN AND IS COHERENT.; OR**

The section would read as follows:

[Unchanged]

(IV) APPLYING SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE;

(V) MONITORING NITROUS OXIDE;~~OR WHICH MEANS THE OBSERVATION OF THE PATIENT:~~

- (A) DURING THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE;**
- (B) DURING THE REDUCTION OF THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE;**
- (C) DURING THE SHUTTING OFF OF THE EQUIPMENT CONTROLLING THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE; AND**
- (D) AT ALL TIMES IN BETWEEN THE START OF THE FLOW OF NITROUS OXIDE UNTIL AFTER NITROUS OXIDE HAS BEEN TERMINATED AND THE PATIENT HAS FULLY AWOKEN AND IS COHERENT.; OR**

(VI) ADDITIONAL INTRAORAL PROCEDURES AUTHORIZED BY THE BOARD IN REGULATIONS.

With these amendments the MSA takes a neutral position on House Bill 968. We appreciate the proponents working with us on these amendments to ensure clarity for the patient and the practitioners involved in the care of the patient.

For additional information please contact Dan Shattuck, Executive Director at mdashq@gmail.com.