
A Survey of Oral Sedation Requirements For the Fifty States. GEORGE A. ADAMS JR.,D.M.D.*, ERWIN G. TURNER, D.M.D., GEORGE A. ADAMS SR.,D.D.S., M.S.D. UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY.

A complete list of regulations governing oral sedation for every state does not exist at this time. The information obtained in this survey will be useful in helping states determine standardized requirements for performing oral sedation. The information can also be used to help establish new guidelines in states without any current regulations for oral sedation. An eighteen-question survey was mailed to each of the fifty state boards of dentistry. The survey examined the requirements of each state in the areas of: requirement of a special license, monitoring, education, office inspections, Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) or Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) certification, and a report of mortality or other injuries. Twenty-three surveys were returned and reviewed. The other twenty-seven states sent their respective laws governing oral sedation so that a survey could be completed by the investigators. The results showed that only fourteen of the fifty states required a special permit for oral sedation. Three of the fourteen require a permit only when two or more oral sedative drugs are utilized. Ten of the fourteen states require an inspection of the office be conducted before a permit will be granted. ACLS or PALS certification is required to perform oral sedation in only five states. Currently, there are no standardized guidelines for oral sedations in the fifty states. This survey will need to be updated every two to three years to keep it current with the changes taking place in many states.