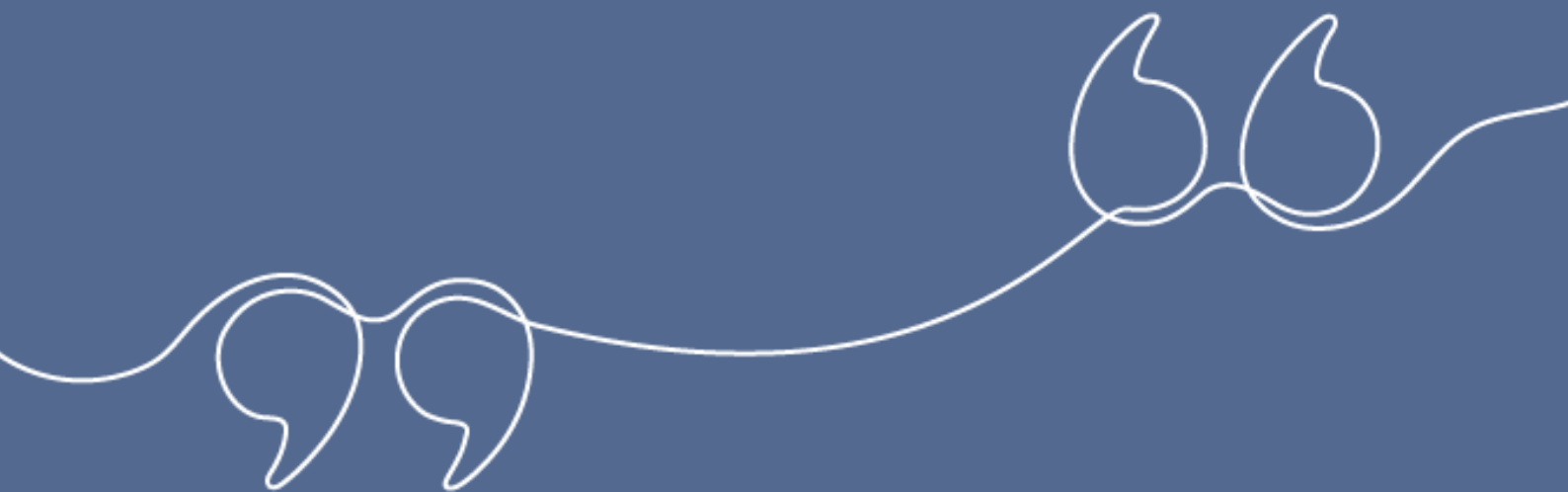


Early Consultation on Existing Sedation Standards: Summary Report

September 2024



Introduction

Standards are the requirements oral health professionals must comply with to practice safely. Modernizing core regulatory functions and establishing patient-centred standards for all oral health professionals is a strategic focus for BCCOHP.

This survey was designed as part of the early consultation on BCCOHP's existing standards for all sedation and general anesthesia providers, and those who are on the clinical sedation and/or general anesthesia teams. The survey was distributed on Friday, July 19 and concluded on Friday, August 2, 2024.

Responses from the survey will help assess existing sedation practice standards, identify issues, and shape and inform the development of new sedation and general anesthesia standards. [Learn more about our standards and guidance development >>](#)

Note: This document reports on key themes from survey results and is not exhaustive.

Survey Overview

Breakdown of Respondents

The survey received 775 responses from various health professionals*. Please note that this summary report does not include feedback from the entire population of clinical sedation and GA professionals working in non-hospital dental facilities. Data in this report represents a varied sample of the population involved in sedation/GA services in BC.

A breakdown of respondents is included below:

- **Certified dental assistants:** 251 (32%)
- **Dental hygienists:** 81 (10%)
- **Dental technicians:** 2 (0.3%)
- **Dentists:** 422 (54%)
- **Denturists:** 6 (0.8%)
- **Physicians:** 4 (0.5%)
- **Registered nurse:** 1 (0.1%)
- **Other:** 8 (1%)

Administration of sedation and general anesthesia: 379 respondents stated that they are *involved in administering* sedation and/or GA in their practice. Please note that respondents may be providing multiple levels of sedation services.

- **Minimal sedation:** 74% (279) of respondents
- **Moderate sedation:** 29% (111) of respondents
- **Deep sedation:** 8% (29) of respondents

- **General anesthesia:** 3% (11) of respondents

Support for levels of sedation and general anesthesia: 371 respondents stated that they *support* different levels of sedation or GA. Please note that respondents may be supporting multiple levels of sedation services.

- **Minimal sedation:** 41% (152) of respondents
- **Moderate sedation:** 36% (135) of respondents
- **Deep sedation:** 16% (58) of respondents
- **General anesthesia:** 13% (49) of respondents
- **Unsure:** 6% (23) of respondents

Survey content

The survey is meant to inform and support drafting of new Sedation and General Anesthesia Practice Standards for BCCOHP. It gathered information from current oral health sedation team members about:

- Their familiarity with the current standards
- Current use of standards and sample forms
- Clarity and understanding on different aspects of the standards
- Areas of the standards that may benefit from potential revisions

Key findings

Based on the results of this survey, a summary of the key findings is included below:

- Overall clarity of existing sedation standards could be improved to enhance accessibility.
- The majority of respondents:
 - Agree that all members of the sedation team should be held accountable to BCCOHP sedation and GA standards.
 - Are familiar with existing sedation and general anesthesia standards.
 - Know where to find the existing sedation standards on the website.

Common Themes

Several respondents provided open-ended feedback on the existing BCCOHP sedation and GA standards. Notable themes include:

1. **Clarity of standards:** Some respondents found the existing standards to be too long and difficult to understand.
2. **Scope of anesthesia classification:** Several respondents indicated that current classification and assessment of anesthesia practices may require revision.

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- 3. Familiarity:** There are different levels of familiarity with the existing standards among oral health professionals.