

American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists

Code of Ethics and Ethical Guidelines

1 PREAMBLE

2 The members of the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists recognize the unique privileges and
3 responsibilities inherent in the doctor-patient relationship. Accordingly, all members subscribe to the
4 following basic tenets of ethical dental practice:

5 **Autonomy:** Patients have the right to autonomy of thought, intention and action when making
6 decisions about their healthcare.

7 **Non-maleficence:** The dentist anesthesiologist will not willingly harm a patient and will protect
8 the patient from incurring harm while under his or her care.

9 **Beneficence:** The dentist anesthesiologist will provide care with the intent of promoting the
10 patient's welfare.

11 **Justice:** The dentist anesthesiologist will be fair in his or her treatment of patients, colleagues
12 and coworkers.

13 **Truthfulness:** The dentist anesthesiologist will be honest in his or her communications.

14 These basic tenets are further described in the following principles:

15 I. A dentist anesthesiologist shall be dedicated to providing competent care with compassion and
16 respect for patient dignity and rights.

17 II. A dentist anesthesiologist shall respect the law and also recognize a responsibility to seek
18 changes in those requirements which are contrary to the best interests of the patient.

19 III. A dentist anesthesiologist shall respect the privacy and confidence of patients, colleagues and
20 other health professionals.

21 IV. A dentist anesthesiologist shall continue to maintain his or her continuing professional
22 education in order to provide highly competent patient care and consultation.

23 V. A dentist anesthesiologist shall be free to choose whom to serve, with whom to associate and
24 the environment in which to provide patient care, while fulfilling his or her obligation to patient care.

25 VI. A dentist anesthesiologist shall recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing
26 to improvement of the community and betterment of public health.

27 VII. A dentist anesthesiologist shall support access to medical and dental care.

28 ETHICAL GUIDELINES

29 The practice of anesthesiology within the scope of dentistry involves unique situations for providing care
30 to patients. The following guidelines are the standards of conduct for this practice, willingly accepted by
31 all members of the American Society of Dentist Anesthesiologists.

32 Responsibilities to Patients

33 1. The dentist anesthesiologist shall provide faithful care that is in the best interest of the
34 patient.

35 2. The dentist anesthesiologist will respect the patient's right of self-determination. This
36 includes involving patient and/or guardian in treatment decisions, as appropriate to their
37 developmental capacity and the health issues involved. The dentist anesthesiologists will not
38 use their professional skills to coerce or restrain individuals with adequate decision-making
39 capacity.

40 3. Recognizing the unique vulnerability of anesthetized patients, dentist anesthesiologists will
41 care for each patient's physical and psychological safety, comfort and dignity. Dentist
42 anesthesiologists should monitor themselves and their colleagues to protect anesthetized
43 patients from disrespectful or abusive behavior.

44 4. Dentist anesthesiologists will maintain the confidentiality of patient's personal and medical
45 information.

46 5. Dentist anesthesiologists will provide preoperative evaluation and care and should facilitate
47 the process of informed decision-making, especially with regard to the choice of anesthetic
48 technique.

49 6. When dentist anesthesiologists are supervising healthcare providers in training such as
50 physicians or dentists in training, or using auxiliary anesthesia personnel, they will remain
51 personally and continuously available for the direction and supervision of the anesthetic.

52 7. Dentist anesthesiologists will provide appropriate postanesthetic care for their patients.

53 8. Dentist anesthesiologists will not participate in exploitive financial relationships.

54 9. Dentist anesthesiologists will apply consistent care and diligence to all patients, regardless of
55 their ability to pay for care.

56 Responsibilities to Colleagues

57 1. Dentist anesthesiologists will promote a cooperative and respectful relationship with their
58 professional colleagues that facilitates quality care for patients.

59 2. Dentist anesthesiologists should provide timely consultation when requested and seek
60 appropriate consultation when appropriate.

61 3. Dentist anesthesiologists should cooperate with colleagues to improve the quality,
62 effectiveness and efficiency of care.

63 4. Dentist anesthesiologists should advise colleagues whose ability to practice becomes
64 temporarily or permanently impaired to appropriately modify or discontinue their practice. They
65 should assist, to the extent of their own abilities, with the re-education or rehabilitation of a
66 colleague who is returning to practice.

67 5. Verbal and written contracts should be honest and understandable, and should be respected.

68 6. Dentist anesthesiologists personally handle many controlled and potentially dangerous
69 substances and therefore, have a special responsibility to keep these substances from illicit use.

70 Responsibilities to themselves

71 1. Dentist anesthesiologists are obligated to maintain competency in their anesthesia skills
72 throughout the course of their career.

73 2. The practice of anesthesiology requires adequate physical, mental and sensory capabilities.
74 When doubt arises about their health, dentist anesthesiologists should seek medical
75 evaluation and care. When indicated, they should modify or cease their practice as
76 appropriate.

77 Responsibility to community and society

78 1. A dentist anesthesiologist should recognize a responsibility to participate in the activities
79 that improve the community.

80 A dentist anesthesiologist shall not engage in misconduct in research and/or publication.