Summary of Current Statutes vs. Proposed Changes for Dentists providing Anesthesia in the State of Nebraska. (from Appendix B)

1) Nitrous Oxide Analgesia
   Current Situation: Nitrous Oxide Inhalation permit required.
   Proposed Change: NO PERMIT required to administer nitrous oxide.
   (The administration of nitrous oxide is an integral part of the education in all accredited dental schools. The dentist, by virtue of graduation from an accredited school, is competent in the use of nitrous oxide and a separate permit is unnecessary.)

2) Minimal Sedation
   Current Situation: No regulation of minimal sedation ("sedation dentistry") techniques.
   Proposed Change: NEW PERMIT category for MINIMAL SEDATION.
   (Outpatient oral/minimal sedation techniques are increasing in popularity. Guidelines for use and educational requirements are in the interest of public safety. In the state of Nebraska, mandating education for this anesthesia technique necessitates the creation of a permit category.)

3) Moderate Sedation
   Current Situation: Parenteral Sedation Permit required.
   Proposed Change: ENTERAL OR PARENTERAL MODERATE SEDATION PERMIT required.
   (Reflects current anesthesia literature and recommendations which recognize LEVEL of anesthesia rather than just the route of administration.)

4) General Anesthesia or Deep Sedation
   Current Situation: General Anesthesia Permit required.
   Proposed Change: GENERAL ANESTHESIA OR DEEP SEDATION PERMIT required.
   (Again, reflects LEVEL of anesthesia rather that route of administrations or specific drugs administered.)

Both Moderate and General Anesthesia/Deep Sedation Permit categories are similar to existing permits, but have been updated to reflect current outpatient dental office anesthesia standards and practice.

*EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: In addition to specific educational requirements identified for each permit category, the proposal calls for all anesthesia permit holders to obtain 6 hours of C.E. directly related to anesthesia as part of the 30 hours which are currently required biannually for a dental license.
Dental Hygienist

1) Administer Local Anesthesia
   Current Situation: A licensed hygienist may administer local anesthesia after having graduated from an accredited school or having completed a Board Approved Course.
   Current Supervision: Indirect Supervision
   Proposed Change: Administer Local Anesthesia and REVERSAL AGENTS
      (The same educational requirements will be retained in order for a hygienist to be allowed to administer local anesthesia and reversal agents)
   Proposed Supervision: GENERAL SUPERVISION

2) Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen Inhalation Analgesia
   Current Situation: Monitor a patient while receiving Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen Inhalation Analgesia.
      (The dentist puts the mask on the patient, adjusts the level of analgesia and then leaves the room allowing the hygienist to observe the patient while performing hygiene procedures. If the patient experiences any problems the hygienist must call the dentist to come back to the patient to adjust the level of analgesia being administered)
   Current Supervision: Indirect Supervision
   Current Education: Hold a current certification in Basic Life-Support Skills for Healthcare Providers
   Proposed Change: ADMINISTER, MONITOR and ADJUST Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen Inhalation Analgesia.
      (The hygienist will be allowed to put the mask on the patient, adjust the level of analgesia and monitor the patient while performing hygiene procedures.)
   Proposed Supervision: INDIRECT SUPERVISION

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: The board may approve successful completion of a course of instruction to determine competence to administer, monitor and adjust nitrous oxide and oxygen inhalation analgesia. The course of instruction must be at an accredited school or college of dentistry, an accredited dental hygiene program or a nationally accredited program approved by the board. A hygienist must also hold a current certification in Basic Life-Support Skills for Healthcare Providers

Dental Assistant

1) Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen Inhalation Analgesia
   Current Situation: The assistant is allowed to assist when a patient is receiving Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen Inhalation Analgesia
   Current Supervision: Direct Supervision
      (The dentist must be present in the room at all times)
   Current Education: Hold a current certification in Basic Life-Support Skills for Healthcare Providers
Proposed Change: MONITOR a patient while on Nitrous Oxide and Oxygen Inhalation Analgesia

(The assistant will be allowed to observe the patient’s responsiveness, color, and respiratory rate; recognizing adverse reactions or complications and report them to the dentist immediately.)

Proposed Supervision: INDIRECT SUPERVISION

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS: The institution administering the course on monitoring nitrous oxide and oxygen inhalation analgesia must be accredited by the American Dental Association or a dental anesthesiologist or be a course in monitoring nitrous oxide and oxygen inhalation analgesia which is approved by the Board and Department. The course shall include procedures for purposes for determining whether the dental assistant has acquired the necessary knowledge and proficiency to monitor nitrous oxide and oxygen inhalation analgesia. The course shall include an examination which determines the competence of the dental assistant to monitor nitrous oxide and oxygen inhalation analgesia and required to pass.

*Currently Dental Auxiliary have educational requirements to perform two procedures in the State of Nebraska: Any dental auxiliary is hereby authorized under the supervision of a licensed dentist to take DENTAL ROENTGENOGRAMS, but they shall not be authorized to do so, on or after January 1, 1973, unless they have satisfactorily completed a course in dental radiology approved by the Board and the Department.

A dental assistant if graduated from a dental assisting training program which is accredited by the American Dental Association (ADA) and includes a CORONAL POLISHING course; or Attained the age of eighteen (18); and One of the following: Have one (1) year (a minimum of 1500 hours) of clinical work experience as a dental assistant and have successfully completed a course in polishing procedures which is approved by the Board and Department.