



College of Respiratory  
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes  
respiratoires de l'Ontario

# CONSCIOUS SEDATION

Practice FAQs

October 2012

## QUESTION

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Can RRT-AAs provide conscious sedation to patients/clients in an eye surgery clinic?

## ANSWER

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The CRTO considers the practice of RT-AAs administering conscious sedation within the scope of respiratory therapy practice in Ontario. Please review the following Position Statements [Respiratory Therapists as AAs](#) and [Scope of Practice and Maintenance of Competency](#).

Take a moment to reflect on the list of key questions and the decision tree in the Scope of Practice and Maintenance of Competency document, to guide you in your decision making process as to whether or not you should practice in this setting.

In addition to being competent and authorized under the Respiratory Therapy Act to perform controlled acts, you must also have valid orders from a regulated health care professional (e.g., a physician) who is competent and authorized to practice in this setting. Be sure that the policies, procedures and systems where you work will enable you to meet all of your professional standards (e.g., documentation/recordkeeping) and to maintain your competency and ongoing quality assurance requirements.

There is a lot to consider in order to ensure that you are acting within your scope of practice to provide safe and ethical care that is in the best interest of your patients/clients. Here are some CRTO resources for your review:

- ✓ [Standards of Practice](#)
- ✓ Professional Practice Guideline [Orders for Medical Care](#)
- ✓ Professional Practice Guideline [Delegation of Controlled Acts](#) (Delegation is a process!)
- ✓ Professional Practice Guideline [Documentation](#)
- ✓ [Professional Liability Insurance](#)



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## What about a private eye clinic?

All RTs must ensure that they satisfy all of the legislative requirements that govern their practice, including having the authority to perform their authorized acts and procedures in the practice setting where they work (e.g., the Public Hospitals Act or Independent Health Facilities Act). A “private eye clinic” may be an independent health facility. Here are some additional resources to investigate:

- Ministry of Health and Long Term Care [Independent Health Facilities Resources](#) (includes links to the Act and regulations under the Act)
- College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario [Guidelines for Independent Health Facilities](#), e.g., [Ophthalmology](#).

## What about administering controlled substances?

“Administering a substance by injection or inhalation” is a controlled act authorized to RTs (see [PPG Interpretation of Authorized Acts](#)). The administration of controlled substances is regulated by Federal legislation such as the [Controlled Drugs and Substances Act](#), and in Ontario by provincial legislation such as the [Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act 2010](#). Did you know that the Regulation under the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act, 2010 in Ontario “requires the prescriber to include an identifying number for the patient on a prescription for a narcotic or controlled substance”? In other words, RTs must ensure that they have a valid, direct order to administer controlled substances. For more information regarding the controlled substances requirements in Ontario visit the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care’s website [Narcotics Strategy](#).

If you are unsure about the practice of RRT-AAs providing conscious sedation in an eye clinic, please do not hesitate to contact the College.