

## SAAD Shows the way for 'New Starters' in Dental Sedation

*"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think" Albert Einstein*

Since the publication of the IACSD Standards for Conscious Sedation in the Provision of Dental Care (2015) the expectations around training courses in dental sedation have increased dramatically and this is significant for both course providers and potential delegates. As a profession we have a duty of care to provide appropriate pain and anxiety control for our patients and it is imperative that those practising conscious sedation are able to deliver this in a safe and predictable way. Sedation practitioners are required to have a good understanding of the techniques used and to be able to apply their knowledge for each patient and in all clinical situations thereby ensuring a successful outcome.

The newly formed Sedation Training Accreditation Committee (STAC) is responsible for accrediting all independent courses intending to train 'New Starters' in dental sedation, including sedationists and dental nurses. Courses need to demonstrate they fulfil the requirements described in the IACSD education syllabuses and that students will obtain the necessary knowledge, skills and experience to prepare them for independent sedation practice. These changes have necessitated course providers to reflect on their own courses and develop and improve them to meet the new standard.

As a premier education provider in dental sedation, the Society for the Advancement of Anaesthesia in Dentistry (SAAD) has responded to this challenge and new demands, by developing and gaining accreditation for two new courses; the SAAD Assessed Sedationist scheme (SAS) and the SAAD Assessed Sedation Nurse scheme (SASN). These two courses are in addition to the existing accredited course in inhalation sedation for Dental Hygienists and Dental Therapists, the SAAD Assessed Sedation Therapists (SAST) scheme. The SAS, SAST and SASN scheme are structured to deliver a detailed two-day programme of didactic training followed by supervised clinical experience, thereby fulfilling the requirements detailed in the IACSD Standards' Syllabus 1: Basic conscious sedation techniques for children, young people and adults, and Syllabus 5: Dental nurses: Assisting during conscious sedation, respectively.

These courses build upon the success and popularity of the existing SAAD National Course for Dental and Medical Practitioners and the Dental Nurse Course, but offer a great opportunity to combine these with a well-structured and thorough clinical experience module for 'New Starters'. Course participants identify a suitable clinical supervisor in advance of the course who will be approved by the SAAD Training Board after providing details of their sedation experience, qualifications and current practice. This provides delegates with the flexibility to work with a clinical supervisor either within their own practice environment or locally, thus facilitating easier access to the clinical experience. This proximity to the clinical supervisor promotes not only a positive and constructive working relationship during the formal process of supervision and assessment, but also an increased likelihood of continued mentorship, support and peer review.

### SAAD Assessed Sedationist (SAS) scheme

'New Starters' interested in joining the SAS scheme need to register at the time of booking onto the National Course. A clinical

supervisor should then be identified by the applicant and approved by SAAD in advance of attending the course. On the second day of the National Course, delegates will undergo a written assessment using the Single Best Answer format. The clinical experience module consists of a series of Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS) totalling 20 Intravenous sedation (IV) and/or 10 Inhalation sedation (IHS) cases. In addition practitioners are required to complete a logbook of experience and undertake a practice evaluation checklist using the SAAD Safe Practice Scheme document. All documentation must be submitted for approval by SAAD within 12 months of the date of the National Course.

### SAAD Assessed Sedation Therapist (SAST) scheme

Dental Hygienists and Therapists registered for the SAST scheme submit the details of their clinical supervisor for approval by SAAD at the time of registration. They then attend the two-day SAAD National Course, for the knowledge and skills training. On the second day of the course there is a written (Single Best Answer format) and a practical assessment. The clinical experience module is completed in the same manner as the SAS scheme for 10 IHS cases, with the documents being submitted within 12 months of attending the SAAD National Course.

### SAAD Assessed Sedation Nurse (SASN) scheme

Dental Nurses wishing to join the SASN scheme need to register their interest either before attending the Dental Nurse Course or within the first four weeks after the course. A suitable clinical supervisor needs to be identified and approved by SAAD as with the SAS scheme. The clinical experience module is completed in exactly the same manner as the SAS scheme with the requisite number of DOPS and a clinical experience logbook. Dental Nurses are required to compile a practice profile detailing a description of the clinical setting. As with the SAS scheme, course participants have 12 months to complete the required documentation and once this is received and approved, individuals will be invited to attend for their final assessment including written and practical elements. These assessments are scheduled on the Saturday morning of each SAAD National Course course held in London.

November 2016 saw the first cohorts enter the SAS and SASN schemes and two further cohorts have begun their journeys in March and June of this year. Thus far a total of eight sedationists and two dental nurses have successfully completed the schemes, thereby fulfilling the requirements to be able to practise independently. The SAAD Training Board is very enthusiastic and positive about the impact of these new schemes and feels confident that the robust, well rounded and thorough training pathway will equip new sedationists and dental nurses with the required knowledge, skills and experience to be able to practise dental sedation safely, effectively and so provide a positive outcome for their patients.

If you have any questions or would like some more information about the SAS or SASN schemes please visit [www.saad.org.uk](http://www.saad.org.uk) or email Fiona at [fiona@saad.org.uk](mailto:fiona@saad.org.uk)

Paul Howlett  
SAAD Training Board

## SAS SCHEME

### REGISTER (BEFORE ATTENDING THE SAAD NATIONAL COURSE)

The deadline for registering for the SAS scheme is the Friday before the weekend of the SAAD National Course.

eg for the SAAD National course taking place on the 16th & 17th June 2018, the SAS scheme registration deadline is 8th June 2018

### INFORMATION REQUIRED

When registering you will need to be able to provide the following information...

- Date you will attend the SAAD National Course
- Intended sedation technique(s)
- Age group of patients (adults, children or both)
- Name of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- GDC / GMC No. of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Qualifications of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Sedation experience of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Sedation services offered by proposed clinical supervisor(s) including approx. no. of sedation cases per month.
- Address of the practice(s) where the clinical supervision will take place
- A brief description of sedation facilities

### APPROVAL

The information about the nominated clinical supervisor (s) and the sedation facility where the supervised clinical practice will take place is submitted for approval to the SAAD Training Board.

### SAAD NATIONAL COURSE

Attend the SAAD National Course for the knowledge and skills training.

### WRITTEN ASSESSMENT

This is a Single Best Answer paper on the Sunday of the National Course weekend.

### ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The week after the National Course the results of the assessment are emailed along with the link to the SAS scheme webpage.

### SAS SCHEME WEBPAGE

From this page it will be possible to download all of the documents required to complete the supervised clinical practice.

- DOPS form
- Logbook
- Practice Self-Evaluation Checklist

Also available is guidance on setting up the SAAD Document Repository (SDR)

### SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE

20 IVS and/or 10 IHS cases should be documented and signed by the approved clinical supervisor.

### ACCESS THE SAAD DOCUMENT REPOSITORY (SDR)

This enables SAS scheme documents to be uploaded, via a secure section of the SAAD website, and submitted for approval. All documents must be submitted within twelve months of attending the SAAD National Course.

eg if attending the SAAD National Course on 16th & 17th June 2018 all documents must be submitted by 17th June 2019.

### APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

Successful practitioners will receive a SAAD certificate confirming 'SAAD Assessed Sedationist' status which will enable you to practise independently.

## SASN SCHEME

### REGISTER (BEFORE OR AFTER THE SAAD NATIONAL COURSE)

The deadline for registering for the SASN scheme is four weeks after the weekend of the SAAD National Course.

eg for the SAAD National course taking place on the 16th & 17th June 2018, the SASN scheme registration deadline is 14th July 2018.

### INFORMATION REQUIRED

When registering you will need to be able to provide the following information...

- Date you attended the SAAD National Course
- Intended sedation technique(s)
- Age group of patients (adults, children or both)
- Name of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- GDC / GMC No. of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Qualifications of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Sedation experience of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Sedation services offered by proposed clinical supervisor(s) including approx. no. of sedation cases per month
- Address of the practice(s) where the clinical supervision will take place
- A brief description of sedation facilities

### APPROVAL

The information about the nominated clinical supervisor (s) and the sedation facility where the supervised clinical practice will take place is submitted for approval to the SAAD Training Board.

### SAAD NATIONAL COURSE

Attend the SAAD National Course for the knowledge and skills training

### SASN SCHEME WEBPAGE

From this page it will be possible to download all of the documents required to complete the supervised clinical practice.

- DOPS forms
- Practice profile

Also available is guidance on setting up the SAAD Document Repository (SDR)

### SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE

20 IVS and/or 10 IHS cases should be documented and signed by the approved clinical supervisor.

### ACCESS THE SAAD DOCUMENT REPOSITORY (SDR)

This enables SASN scheme documents to be uploaded, via a secure section of the SAAD website, and submitted for approval.

### SUBMIT DOCUMENTS FOR APPROVAL

All documents should be submitted to be approved within twelve months of attending the SAAD National Course.

eg. If attending the SAAD National Course on 16th & 17th June 2018 the final opportunity to submit documents is 4th May 2019.

### WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

After the submitted documents have been approved, return to the SAAD National Course venue to sit the single best answer paper and the practical assessment on one of the SAAD weekends within twelve months of attending the SAAD National Course.

eg. If attending the SAAD National Course on 16th & 17th June 2018 the final opportunity to attend for assessment is 15th June 2019

### ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Candidates will receive their results approximately a week after the assessment.

### APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

Successful practitioners will receive a SAAD certificate confirming 'SAAD Assessed Sedation Nurse' status which will enable you to assist with the provision of dental sedation as the second suitable trained person.

## SAST SCHEME

### REGISTER (BEFORE ATTENDING THE SAAD NATIONAL COURSE)

The deadline for registering for the SAST scheme is a month before the course dates.

eg the deadline for the course commencing on 3rd & 4th November 2018 is Friday 5th October 2018

### INFORMATION REQUIRED

When registering you will need to be able to provide the following information...

- Age group of patients (adults, children or both)
- Name of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- GDC / GMC No. of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Qualifications of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Sedation experience of proposed clinical supervisor(s)
- Sedation services offered by proposed clinical supervisor(s) including approx. no. of sedation cases per month.
- Address of the practice(s) where the clinical supervision will take place
- A brief description of sedation facilities

### APPROVAL

The information about the nominated clinical supervisor (s) and the sedation facility where the supervised clinical practice will take place is submitted for approval to the SAAD Training Board.

### SAAD NATIONAL COURSE

Attend the SAAD National Course for the knowledge and skills training.

### WRITTEN ASSESSMENT

This is a Single Best Answer paper on the Sunday of the National Course weekend.

### ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The week after the National Course the results of the assessment are emailed along with the link to the SAST scheme webpage.

### SAST SCHEME WEBPAGE

From this page it will be possible to download all of the documents required to complete the supervised clinical practice.

- DOPS form
- Logbook
- Practice Self-Evaluation Checklist

Also available is guidance on setting up the SAAD Document Repository (SDR)

### SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE

10 IHS cases should be documented and signed by the approved clinical supervisor. For at least five of these cases you should have provided both the sedation and the treatment.

### ACCESS THE SAAD DOCUMENT REPOSITORY (SDR)

This enables SAST scheme documents to be uploaded, via a secure section of the SAAD website, and submitted for approval. All documents must be submitted within twelve months of attending the SAAD National Course.

eg if attending the SAAD National Course on 3rd & 4th November 2018 all documents must be submitted by 5th November 2019.

### APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION

Successful practitioners will receive a SAAD certificate confirming 'SAAD Assessed Sedation Therapist' status which will enable you to practice independently.