

DENTIST-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP

CHECKLIST #2

TREATING PATIENTS WITH WHOM YOU HAVE A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP

Dentists are often asked by close friends, relatives, or colleagues for dental advice, treatment, or prescriptions both inside and outside of the office. At times, these individuals may be seen by you as a courtesy and/or at no charge. Although the American Dental Association does not specifically prohibit the treatment of relatives or close friends, it is not without potential risk.

Over the years, we have seen a number of lawsuits filed against dentists by close friends, colleagues, and even their own family members because of care provided by our insureds. The defense of these suits is frequently hampered by the fact that there are often sparse or entirely non-existent records for the patient. The failure to maintain a record for every patient is defined as professional misconduct by 8 NYCRR 29.2. Providing care under these circumstances poses unique risks.

	YES	NO
1. A record is always created for friends, relatives, and colleagues when care of any kind is provided.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. All patient encounters are documented in the record, including those that occur outside the dental office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. A complete medical history is taken when seeing friends, relatives, or colleagues as patients.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. A thorough medication history is obtained from the patient to avoid potential drug interactions. Any contraindications are identified when prescribing medication.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Prescriptions are not written, especially for controlled substances, for individuals with whom I do not have an established professional relationship. The reasons for prescribing medications, along with the dose are always documented in the record. If narcotics are prescribed, the Prescription Monitoring Program (I-STOP) registry is consulted and is documented in the record.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. When a dental surgical procedure is to be performed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a signed informed consent form is obtained and placed in the record • the record contains documentation that the informed consent conversation with the patient has occurred and that the patient consented to the procedure. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>