

Whether it is within the scope of practice for a dentist to be able to order a sleep study, diagnose sleep apnea, or treat sleep apnea pursuant to a diagnosis by a medical doctor.

It is the opinion of the Board of Dentistry (“Board”) that it is within the scope of a dentist to order a sleep apnea study. Pursuant to a diagnosis of sleep apnea by a medical doctor, a dentist may provide dental services in addressing a diagnosis of sleep apnea if it is within the scope of the dentist’s relevant education, training and experience. SDCL § 36-6A-32.4.

This advisory opinion was rendered by the Board upon submission of a written request. Although advisory opinions are not judicially reviewable and do not have the force and effect of law, they do serve as a guideline for dentists who wish to engage in safe dental practices. This advisory opinion was adopted at the meeting of the South Dakota Board of Dentistry on June 17, 2016.