2-Minute Emergency Readiness Self-Audit

Score your dental practice against the five cornerstones of emergency preparedness

On average, a dental practice faces a life-threatening emergency every few years, and EMS can take 10 to 15 minutes to arrive. This 2-minute self-audit shows where your practice stands today. For each item, be honest and circle: **2 = Yes, fully in place 1 = Partially 0 = No**. Total your points at the end and read your readiness tier.

PREPARE — assess patient risk	circle one max 6
We assess every patient for medical risk factors (age, comorbidities, medications, obesity, sleep apnea) before treatment.	2 1 0
Baseline vital signs and an ASA classification are recorded and readily accessible in every patient's chart.	2 1 0
We update medical history and medications at each return visit and document any medical consultations.	2 1 0

Cornerstone subtotal: _____ / 6

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT — for all personnel	circle one max 4
Every clinical team member holds current (within 2 years) healthcare-provider BLS certification.	2 1 0
Our dentists have completed medical-emergency continuing education (recognition and response) within the last 2 years.	2 1 0

Cornerstone subtotal: _____ / 4

STAT 911 — access to EMS	circle one max 4
A primary and a backup 911 caller are designated in writing, with a script (address, best entry point, where EMS will be met).	2 1 0
We periodically practice or simulate the call to EMS.	2 1 0

Cornerstone subtotal: _____ / 4

EMERGENCY MEDS & EQUIPMENT	circle one max 6
We stock all essential emergency medications and check them so none expire (aspirin, albuterol, nitroglycerin, diphenhydramine, epinephrine, glucose, ammonia).	2 1 0
We have the essential equipment: AED, portable oxygen with delivery devices, BVM/pocket mask, airways, blood-pressure cuffs, and backup suction.	2 1 0

Chairside Quick Reference Checklists for the life-threatening emergencies are posted where the team can reach them.	**2 1 0**

Cornerstone subtotal: _____ / 6

SIMULATIONS — mock drills & response plan	**circle one 10 max**
We have a written medical emergency response plan with each person's role assigned, kept where the whole team can reach it.	**2 1 0**
We run mock medical emergency drills on a regular schedule (e.g., no less than quarterly) and debrief them.	**2 1 0**
We use chair-side cognitive aids (e.g., quick reference checklists) during mock drills and actual emergencies.	**2 1 0**
Based on the results of our most recent drill I am confident we could manage a serious emergency for at least 30 minutes until EMS arrives.	**2 1 0**
Every team member knows, and competently carries out, their assigned duties in the emergency response plan.	**2 1 0**

Cornerstone subtotal: _____ / 10

CORE TOTAL (all practices): _____ / 30

SEDATION / ANESTHESIA BRANCH — complete this section only if you provide sedation or anesthesia	**circle one 8 max**
Every dentist providing sedation holds current ACLS (and PALS if treating children) within 2 years.	**2 1 0**
We have the added monitoring and equipment for our sedation level (pulse oximetry, capnography, reversal agents, advanced airway) as applicable.	**2 1 0**
We have completed sedation-specific emergency training (at least 12 hours covering monitoring, unconsciousness, pharmacology and reversal, and airway).	**2 1 0**
Our office has had an outside sedation / anesthesia emergency-readiness inspection.	**2 1 0**

SEDATION SUBTOTAL: _____ / 8 (if you offer sedation and score below 6 here, treat it as urgent)

Your Readiness Score

Add your circled points. Score the CORE out of 30 to find your tier below. (Percentage = your points ÷ 30 × 100.)

Core score	Readiness tier	What it means & your next step
26 - 30	**Emergency Ready**	Strong. Maintain & document your readiness with the Mock Emergency Drills System; conduct a Readiness Check Ride to keep the team sharp and document your readiness.
19 - 25	**Partially Ready**	Real gaps remain. Close them with the Mock Emergency Drills System.
11 - 18	**Underprepared**	Significant exposure. Start with the Drills System and book a Virtual Readiness Inspection.
0 - 10	**Emergency Unprepared**	A serious emergency today would likely overwhelm you. Book a Virtual Readiness Inspection now.

Find Your Gaps (and fix them)

Any item you did not circle 2 is a gap. Match its cornerstone below to the fastest fix.

Cornerstone	If this is a gap, your risk is...	Fix it with
Prepare	Being blindsided by a high-risk patient	Patient Risk Factor Matrix
Basic Life Support	A team that freezes on the fundamentals	BLS course
Stat 911	Lost minutes reaching EMS	Emergency Response Plan (in the Mock Emergency Drills Training System)
Meds & equipment	Missing the drug or tool when it counts	12-Critical Emergencies QRCs Mock Emergency Drills Training System
Simulations	A plan your team has never rehearsed	Mock Emergency Drills System + Readiness Check Ride
Low score / sedation gaps	Career-level regulatory and legal exposure	Virtual Emergency Readiness Inspection

Not sure your score is accurate? Let an expert look for you. A Virtual Emergency Readiness Inspection is a live, screen-to-screen audit of your equipment, medications, records, and team readiness. Book at aafdo.com.