

NATIONAL EMERGENCY NURSES ASSOCIATION



Position Statement	Procedural Sedation in Adults and Children in the Emergency Department
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Issue

The Registered Nurse is increasingly involved in the administration of a variety of medications to adults and children for the purpose of procedural sedation in the emergency department setting.

Procedural sedation involves producing an analgesic and sedative state without loss of consciousness for the patient via the administration of medications for therapeutic, diagnostic and surgical procedures.

The administration of medications by oral, rectal, intranasal, inhalation, intramuscular and intravenous routes for procedural sedation creates a potential increased risk for the patient's safety.

NENA Position

NENA believes it is within the scope of practice of an Emergency Nurse to provide care to patients before, during, and after the administration of medications for procedural sedation. This is contingent on the successful completion of appropriate education and training.

NENA believes that each emergency department utilizing procedural sedation must develop policies and procedures stating:

- Guidelines for use of procedural sedation in emergency including nurse-patient ratio of one to one during and after the procedure.
- Policy for procedural sedation including roles for physician managing sedation, physician performing procedure, RN caring for the patient and other roles as needed (e.g. Respiratory Therapist) which are clearly defined.
- Tool for documentation of patient status before, during and after procedure.
- Criteria for discharge of patient.
- Patient discharge information including observation guidelines post procedure, resource telephone number and a list of medications administered to patient be given to patient/caregiver.
- Protocols for managing potential complications or emergency situations arising from the administration of procedural sedation medications.
- Drug profiles: including side effect, adverse effects, complications, reversing agents, dosage and weight charts, peak actions and duration of actions and administration protocols.

NENA believes that Emergency Nurses caring for patients undergoing procedural sedation should complete a standardized education and practical competency package as developed by the facility. This

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process would ensure the Emergency Nurses have the knowledge, skills and abilities to care for a patient undergoing procedural sedation.

NENA believes there must be a process for evaluation of both the competency of the nursing care provided and the overall process of administration of procedural sedation in the emergency department through quality improvement or risk management.

Rationale

Procedural sedation in the emergency department can be a safe, therapeutic intervention for adults and children undergoing a variety of procedures. Recognition of the potential risks and complications of procedural sedation with proactive management of patient care will ensure best possible outcomes for patient care before, during and after the procedures.

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