

**KANSAS STATE BOARD OF NURSING  
POSITION STATEMENT**

**ADMINISTRATION OF IV “CONSCIOUS SEDATION”  
(MODERATE SEDATION/ANALGESIA)  
BY THE REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL NURSE**

The Kansas State Board of Nursing determined that it is within the scope of practice of a registered professional nurse, who is not licensed as a registered nurse anesthetist, to execute a medical regimen [reference 65-1113(a)] to administer pharmacologic agents via the intravenous route to produce moderate sedation/analgesia, also called IV “conscious sedation.”

The Board of Nursing recommends additional advanced education on levels of sedation and effects of pharmacologic agents. In addition, the registered professional nurse must demonstrate competencies related to the use of sedation and have advanced life support training before accepting orders and administering drugs to produce moderate sedation/analgesia.

The registered professional nurse must follow specific policies and procedures set up to guide her/his practice regarding moderate sedation/analgesia. These policies/procedures should minimally include:

- Education specific to the pharmacologic agents use;
- Management of potential complications and medical emergencies;
- Monitoring and assessment related to the continuum of sedation;
- Competency requirements with periodic review of skill level and knowledge base;
- Definitive policy regarding immediate accessibility of a physician or registered nurse anesthetist to assume care should deep analgesia/sedation inadvertently occur; and,
- Patient monitoring guidelines with documentation requirements and forms.

The registered professional nurse has an independent obligation under her/his license to monitor patient safety and to decline orders for additional medications that may cause the patient to reach a deeper level of sedation or analgesia than proscribed in this position statement. Refusal to administer pharmacologic agents under these circumstances is based on professional judgment and standards of care required of a registered professional nurse and, as such, is not an actionable matter by the Board of Nursing.

**National standards of care and definitions of general anesthesia and levels of sedation/analgesia have been approved and accepted by anesthesia professionals as:**

- 1. Minimal sedation (anxiolysis)**
- 2. Moderate sedation/analgesia (IV “conscious sedation”)**
- 3. Deep sedation/analgesia**
- 4. General anesthesia**

**Moderate sedation/analgesia (IV “conscious sedation”) is further defined as:**

***“a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No [or minimal] (1) interventions are required to maintain a patent airway and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained.” (2) (3)***

(1) Position Statement authors’ addition for clarity

**Resources:**

(2) American Society of Anesthesiologists, October, 1999, “Continuum of Depth of Sedation”  
<http://www.asahq.org/publicationsAndServices/standards/20.htm>

(3) Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Hospitals, “Standards and Intents for Sedation and Anesthesia Care,” Effective January 2, 2001

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Position Statement, June, 2003, “Considerations for Policy Guidelines for Registered Nurses Engaged in the Administration of Conscious Sedation”  
<http://www.aana.com/practice/conscious.asp>

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Position Statement, June, 2003, “Qualified Providers of Sedation and Analgesia”  
<http://www.aana.com/practice/qualified.asp>

American Society of Anesthesiologist, October, 2001, “Practice Guidelines for Sedation and Analgesia by Non-Anesthesiologists” (38 page document; not attached; see web address below)  
<http://www.asahq.org/publicationsAndServices/sedation1017.pdf>

American Society of Anesthesiologist, October, 2001, “Practice Guidelines for Obstetrical Anesthesia” (40+ page document; not attached; see web address below)  
<http://www.asahq.org/publicationsAndServices/obguide.html>

**Education site for this topic:**

<http://www2.kumc.edu/instruction/tom/>

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