

**STATEMENT ON THE ROLE OF THE REGISTERED NURSE IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND MONITORING OF CONSCIOUS SEDATION**

The appropriately prepared Registered Nurse may administer intramuscular (IM) and/or IV non-anesthetic agents for the purpose of conscious sedation during medical procedures provided the following occur:

1. The medication must be ordered by the Physician or Nurse Practitioner;
2. The Physician or Nurse Practitioner must be present; (present means that the physician or Nurse Practitioner is either in the room or in the immediate unit and not otherwise involved in another procedure and is readily available to respond immediately);
3. The patient must be adequately monitored according to currently recognized standards of practice;
4. Whether or not the Registered Nurse actually administers the medication, the Registered Nurse is responsible for monitoring and assessing the patient receiving the conscious sedation throughout the diagnostic or therapeutic procedure;
5. The Registered Nurse must not accept or be assigned additional responsibilities that would interfere with patient monitoring activities; and
6. The institution must have a policy which addresses:
  - a. The maximum initial dose that may be administered by a Registered Nurse for the purpose of conscious sedation during medical procedures; and
  - b. Resources which must be immediately available, including, but not limited to resuscitation equipment and resuscitation personnel.
  - c. Post administration/recovery monitoring provided within the accepted current standard of practice for dosages, medication and route of administration.

It is incumbent upon the Registered Nurse to participate in this procedure only if:

1. Competency is maintained;
2. Necessary resources are immediately available; and
3. The procedure is according to accepted current standards of practice.

**Although the determination of medical dosage and the patient's medical status is a medical decision, the Registered Nurse has the right and the obligation to question orders and decisions, which are contrary to acceptable standards, and to refuse to participate in procedures, which may result in harm to the patient.**

The position of the Mississippi Board of Nursing was formulated in response to the Board's legally mandated charge to protect the public.

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