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Nevada

Administer medications for the purpose of induction of sedation for short-term therapeutic, diagnostic, or surgical procedures (**procedural sedation**). *There are multiple sedation and anesthetic agents that cause profound changes in respiratory status even at low doses. Some of these medications do not have reversal agents and require the support of competent clinicians in advanced airway management. Licensed Professional Nurses (RNs) who administer these agents should be qualified to rescue patients whose level of sedation is deeper than intended or those who enter the state of general anesthesia.*

RNs may administer medications for the purpose of induction of sedation for short-term therapeutic, diagnostic or surgical procedures (procedural sedation). Authority for RNs to administer medications is derived from NRS 632.220. This places no limits on the type of medication or route of medication; there is only the requirement that the drug be ordered by one lawfully authorized to prescribe.

COMPETENCIES

The registered nurse must be competent to perform the function, and the function must be performed in a manner consistent with the standard of practice. In administering medications to induce procedural sedation, the RN is required to have the same knowledge and skills as for any other medication the nurse administers. This knowledge base includes but is not limited to:

- effects of the medication, potential side effects of the medication,
- contraindications for the administration of the medication, and
- the amount of the medication to be administered.

The requisite skills include the ability to:

- competently and safely administer the medication by the specified route,
- anticipate and recognize the potential complications of the medication,
- recognize emergency situations, and
- institute emergency procedures.

Thus the RN shall be held accountable for knowledge of the medication and for ensuring that the proper safety measures are followed. The institution shall have in place a process for evaluating and documenting the RN's demonstration of the knowledge, skills and abilities for the management of patients receiving agents to render procedural sedation. Evaluation and documentation of competency shall occur on an annual basis.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

The safety considerations for procedural sedation include: continuous monitoring of oxygen saturation, cardiac rate and rhythm, blood pressure, respiratory rate and level of consciousness. The RN shall ensure the immediate, on-site availability of back-up personnel for airway management, resuscitative and emergency intubation and of emergency equipment which contains resuscitative and antagonistic medications, airway and ventilatory adjunct equipment, defibrillator, suction and a source for administration of 100% oxygen. The RN administering agents to render procedural sedation shall conduct a nursing assessment to determine that administration of the drug is in the patient's best interest. The RN shall ensure that all safety measures are in force.

MANAGEMENT OF NURSING CARE

The RN is held accountable for any act of nursing provided to a patient. The RN managing the care of the patient receiving procedural sedation shall not leave the patient unattended or engage in tasks that would compromise continuous monitoring of the patient by the registered nurse. The complex nursing functions, including vital signs, shall not be assigned to unlicensed assistive personnel. The RN has the right and obligation to act as the patient's advocate by refusing to administer or continue to administer any medication not in the patient's best interest.

RESOURCES:

Conscious Sedation, California Nurse Practice Act, NPR-B-06

AORN Recommended Practices for Monitoring the Patient Receiving Intravenous Sedation, Association of Operating Room Nurses, Inc.

Position Statement on the Role of the Registered Nurse in the Management of Patients Receiving IV Conscious Sedation for Short-Term Therapeutic, Diagnostic, or Surgical Procedures, American Nurses Association

Qualified Providers of Conscious Sedation, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
ISMP Medication Safety Alert! Acute Care, Institute for Safe Medication Practices.
November 3, 2005. Volume 10, Issue 22.

Approved by the Nevada State Board of Nursing: 3/16/05 (Replaced Anesthetic Agents Decision)

Approved by the NSBN's Nurse Practice Advisory Committee: 12/5/06

Approved by the Nevada State Board of Nursing: 1/24/07