

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

THE ROLE OF THE NURSE IN THE ADMINISTRATION AND MONITORING OF MODERATE SEDATION POSITION STATEMENT

DEFINITION

Intravenous moderate sedation is produced by the administration of pharmacological agents. A patient under moderate sedation has a depressed level of consciousness but retains the ability to independently and continuously maintain a patent airway and to respond appropriately to physical stimulation and/or verbal command.

Administration, Management and Monitoring

1. It is within the scope of practice of a registered nurse to administer pharmacological agents for moderate sedation and manage and monitor the care of patients receiving intra venous moderate sedation during therapeutic, diagnostic or surgical procedures provided the following criteria is met:
 - A. Demonstrate the acquired knowledge of anatomy, physiology, pharmacology, cardiac arrhythmia recognition and complications related to IV moderate sedation and medications.
 - B. Assess total patient care requirements during IV moderate sedation and recovery. Physiologic measurements should include, but not be limited to, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation, blood pressure, cardiac rate and rhythm, and patient's level of consciousness.
 - C. Understand the principles of oxygen delivery, respiratory physiology, transport and uptake, and demonstrate the ability to use oxygen delivery devices.
 - D. Anticipate and recognize potential complications of IV moderate sedation in relation to the type of medication being administered.
 - E. Possess the requisite knowledge and skills to assess, diagnose and intervene in the event of complications or undesired outcomes and to institute nursing interventions in compliance with orders (including standing orders) or institutional protocols or guidelines.
 - F. Demonstrate skill in airway management resuscitation.
 - G. Demonstrate knowledge of the legal ramifications of administering IV moderate sedation and/or monitoring patients receiving IV moderate sedation, including the RN's responsibility and liability in the event of an untoward reaction or life-threatening complications.
2. The RN managing the care of patients receiving IV moderate sedation has no other responsibilities that would compromise continuous monitoring.
3. A qualified anesthetist provider or physician selects and orders the medications to achieve moderate sedation.
4. Guidelines for patient monitoring, drug administration and protocols for dealing with potential complications or emergency situations are available and have been developed in accordance with accepted standards of anesthesia practice.
5. Provisions are in place for the immediate availability of personnel who are experts in airway management, emergency intubation and advanced CPR if complications arise.
6. While the registered nurse who administers intravenous sedation is acting on a specific medical order for a specific client, the registered nurse has the right and obligation to refuse to administer and/or continue to administer medication(s) to clients with significant medical conditions or amounts that may induce deep sedation and/or loss of consciousness.

References:

Kost, Michael - Moderate Sedation/Analgesia 2nd edition

American Society of Anesthesiologists Guidelines for Sedation and Analgesia by Non Anesthesiologists 2002

American Nurses Association's 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. 1991

This Position Statement represents the Board's current thinking. Position statements are not legally binding.

Approved: June 2005