Policy Statement:
Defining Sedation Competencies Using Skill Sets

A vital aspect of procedural sedation quality assurance is defining the competencies and privileges appropriate for individual practitioners. The Committee believes that there is compelling evidence that medical or other healthcare professional specialty training alone is an inadequate criterion for defining competency in procedural sedation.

The Committee believes that competencies and privileges for procedural sedation should not be defined solely by specialty training, but rather by whether the practitioner possesses specific sedation assessment, management, and rescue skill sets targeted to depth of sedation, procedure, and patient. (Recommendations for such graded skill sets will be a future task of the Committee.) Practitioners may acquire and demonstrate sedation competency as part of the curricula of their specialty training programs. Alternatively, practitioners may acquire and demonstrate sedation competency through additional training and education. Regardless of the manner of original skill acquisition, all must maintain competency.

Approval: This policy statement was provisionally approved on November 14, 2015 with a strong level of consensus, i.e., with >90% of members indicating “strong agreement”. External review was completed September 1, 2016, with final adoption September 17, 2016.