ICAPS
International Committee for the Advancement of Procedural Sedation

Policy Statement:
Minimum, Required Skill Sets for Procedural Sedation

As previously noted in ICAPS Policy Statement "Defining Sedation Competencies Using Skill Sets" adopted in 2016 (http://proceduralsedation.org/statements/), 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. Minimum, required skill sets for procedural sedation practitioners are shown in the table to follow.

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We outline minimum, required procedural sedation skill sets for all practitioners in all locations, as applicable to all levels of procedural sedation exceeding minimal sedation. This statement is focused on the needs of the procedural sedation encounter, and is not intended to address the needs for the procedure. In most settings safe procedural sedation requires a minimum of two licensed health care practitioners in attendance: the procedural sedation provider (commonly a physician or dentist) who takes responsibility for oversight of the procedural sedation encounter and a procedural sedation monitor (commonly a nurse or respiratory therapist) whose primary duty is continuous patient monitoring and documentation. In some hospital settings, a single, highly-experienced individual possessing all requisite skills for both Procedural Sedation Provider and Procedural Sedation Monitor simultaneously performs both roles, assuming that they can totally focus on the patient and sedation management, with no other responsibilities, and that they can readily summon one or more licensed health care practitioners with rescue skills should this be necessary. Minimum, required skill sets for the procedural sedation roles are shown below.

	Procedural Sedation Provider	Procedural Sedation Monitor
Cognitive skills	Must understand: • airway, respiratory, and cardiovascular physiology and pathophysiology • the function and interpretation of continuous monitoring of cardiac rhythm, pulse oximetry, and capnography • sedative and antagonist drug pharmacology, e.g., pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, dosing, administration, contraindications, adverse event profiles • sedation adverse events and when intervention is appropriate • the principles of patient pre-sedation evaluation and factors which increase sedation risk • the procedure to be performed and how it might impact the sedation course or sedation risk	Must be familiar with: • airway, respiratory, and cardiovascular physiology and pathophysiology • the function and interpretation of continuous monitoring of cardiac rhythm, pulse oximetry, capnography, and blood pressure • the sedative drugs being used, including their dosing, administration, duration, and adverse event profiles • sedation adverse events and when intervention is appropriate • the equipment used during rescue, and where it is stored
Interactive monitoring skills	Must be able to: • monitor airway patency, identify airway obstruction, and identify and distinguish obstructive and central apnea • monitor ventilatory adequacy using continual observation of chest wall motion supplemented with pulse oximetry and, when appropriate, capnography • monitor cardiovascular stability using physical assessment supplemented with cardiac rhythm and blood pressure monitoring • recognize when a patient is excessively or inadequately sedated	Must be able to: • monitor airway patency and identify partial or complete airway obstruction • monitor ventilatory adequacy using continual observation of the airway and chest wall motion supplemented with pulse oximetry and, when appropriate, capnography • monitor cardiovascular stability using physical assessment supplemented with cardiac rhythm and blood pressure monitoring • recognize when a patient is excessively or inadequately sedated
Rescue skills	Must be able to: • relieve airway obstruction through appropriate application of head tilt, chin lift, or placement of nasal or oral airway • perform bag mask ventilation • manage a patient who is excessively sedated, with or without active intervention as appropriate • rapidly initiate resuscitative measures for hypoxia, apnea, laryngospasm, hypotension, bradycardia, anaphylaxis, seizure, or cardiac arrest • rapidly summon additional resuscitation assistance, if required	Must be able to: • assist the sedation provider in resuscitative measures • rapidly summon additional resuscitation assistance, if required