



# ICAPS

## International Committee for the Advancement of Procedural Sedation

[www.proceduralsedation.org](http://www.proceduralsedation.org)

### Policy Statement: Definition for the Practice of Procedural Sedation

The practice of Procedural Sedation is the administration of one or more pharmacological agents to facilitate a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure while targeting a state during which airway patency, spontaneous respiration, protective airway reflexes,<sup>1</sup> and hemodynamic stability are preserved,<sup>2</sup> while alleviating anxiety and pain.

#### Notes:

1. For procedures such as bronchoscopy, procedural sedation may occur with concurrent blunting of airway reflexes with local anaesthesia.
2. Sedation states within the purview of the above definition include minimal sedation, moderate sedation, dissociative sedation, and deep sedation. The practice of procedural sedation differs from the practice of general anaesthesia, which targets an unarousable state in which airway intervention is often required and spontaneous ventilation is frequently inadequate; see: <https://www.asahq.org/standards-and-guidelines/continuum-of-depth-of-sedation-definition-of-general-anaesthesia-and-levels-of-sedationanalgesia>

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*Approval:* The policy statement was provisionally approved on February 1, 2020 with a strong level of consensus, i.e., with >90% of members indicating agreement. External review was completed May 1, 2020, with final adoption on June 1, 2020.