Moderate Sedation

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OPINION: MODERATE SEDATION
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ORIGINATING COMMITTEE:
Practice & Education Committee

Within the Scope of Practice/Role of __X__APRN __X__RN ___LPN ___CNA

ADVISORY OPINION MODERATE SEDATION

In accordance with Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-21-122(c)(iii) of the Wyoming Nursing Practice Act (NPA), the Wyoming State Board of Nursing (WSBN) has approved the following Advisory Opinion on Moderate Sedation.

The intent of this advisory opinion is to provide clarifications for RNs who may be asked to administer sedating agents in order to provide comfort and pain control for patients undergoing potentially painful or uncomfortable diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

For the purposes of this advisory opinion, conscious sedation is defined as follows:
Moderate Sedation/Analgesia (aka “conscious sedation”) means: a medically controlled state of depressed consciousness, induced to allow the patient to tolerate procedures, that:
(1) allows protective reflexes and cardiovascular function to be maintained;
(2) retains the patient’s ability to maintain a patent airway independently and continuously; and
(3) permits appropriate response by the patient to tactile stimulation or verbal command, e.g., “open your eyes”.

It is within the scope of practice of an appropriately trained and competent RN to administer moderate sedation for the purpose of diagnostic or therapeutic procedures as ordered by the physician, APRN or PA if the following criteria are met:
A. There are institutional policies and procedures to guide this practice;
B. The nurse has completed training and demonstrated continuing competency as well as current certification appropriate to patient population (i.e. ACLS, PALS);
C. The agency/facility maintains documentation on training and competency for each nurse;
D. The care is provided under the direction of a physician, APRN or PA who is on-site; and
E. The patient’s condition is assessed prior to, during, and after the procedure to current standard of practice.

It is not considered appropriate for an RN to administer drugs labeled by the Food and Drug Administration as Anesthetic Agents for the purpose of moderate sedation. This includes, but is not limited to: Propofol, Etomidate, Pentothal, or Brevital by any route. Ketamine is included in this list with the exception of its use as outlined in the WSBN Advisory Opinion: Ketamine, IV Administration for Intractable Pain in Adults. The other exceptions are addressed in the Advisory Opinions: Deep Sedation for Mechanically Ventilated Patient, and Anesthetic & Neuromuscular Agents Administered by RNs for Specific Purposes.

REFERENCES