

EVALUATION OF PEDIATRIC SEDATION PROGRAM PROCESS IN THE PACU ENVIRONMENT

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Sedation and/or analgesia are standards of care for pediatric patients during painful interventions or medical imaging requiring immobility.¹ In some situations, nonanesthesia providers initiate IV sedation if general anesthesia is not required.² Operational issues are encountered when there is no designated location with consistently trained staff or standardized approach to provide pediatric procedural sedation. In INOVA Fairfax Hospital, the Pediatric PACU was selected to provide sedation with trained staff under the direction of a physician. So, the objective of this project is to evaluate the pediatric sedation program process in the PACU environment.

Three years ago, the Pediatric Sedation Program objectives were re-defined; PACU was designated as the sedation location, and staff were educated and trained. A multidisciplinary protocol and a patient's workflow were developed. Outcomes were measured related to satisfaction and volume.

Overall, there is significant satisfaction among the Pediatric Sedation Team and patients. Post discharge surveys indicated positive experiences on the care and attention that patients received. The number of sedation procedure increased from 40/month in 2008 to 110/month in 2012. No cases were canceled due to operational issues.

This program provided the opportunity to advance nursing specialization; enhanced the ability for nurses to be involved and engaged with a multidisciplinary team; and fostered accountability in the care of their patients.

References:

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