

PEDIATRIC SEDATION SPECIALTY UNIT: ENHANCING PATIENT CARE

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Background Information: In 2014, Children's Hospital Los Angeles launched the Pediatric Sedation Unit. In general, the pediatric population should not be considered "small adults". Pediatric patients may not be emotionally or cognitively equipped to follow commands and/or remain calm and unafraid during procedures such as PICC line placement, wound dressing change, lumbar puncture, and bone marrow aspirate. In the past, patients requiring these types of procedures that could not tolerate moderate sedation on the pediatric floor would be sent to the Operating Room (OR) or Interventional Radiology (IR). In these areas ideal levels of sedation could be achieved with general anesthesia. In 2013, it was hypothesized that these patients would be better served in a unit where different drugs and doses of medication could exceed that which moderate sedation policies allow, yet withholding patient exposure to volatile gases. By utilizing ICU and Emergency Room trained physicians to administer deep sedation, we are able to complete multiple procedures that do not require OR and IR time, as well as anesthesia resources.

Objectives of Project: To provide safe, developmentally appropriate, family-centered care to pediatric patients requiring sedation for non-surgical procedures.

Process of Implementation: With the support of hospital leaders and upper management, Registered Nurses with background in Post Anesthesia Care and Pre-Procedural Care were hired to provide 1:1 and 2:1 nursing care throughout the patient experience including pre-, intra-, and post-procedure. The administration of deep sedation was provided by ICU and Emergency Room trained physicians. Patient inclusion and exclusion criteria were developed by the Physician and Nursing Manager of the Sedation Unit. In-patient as well as out-patient departments were educated regarding the services provided by the Sedation Unit.

Statement of Successful Practice: Since inception, we have documented the following:

- Reduction of patient length of stay in the hospital
- Elimination or reduction of risk factors associated with general anesthesia and intubation
- Cost savings to the patient and hospital
- Maximize current resources by utilizing ICU and Emergency room trained physicians to administer deep sedation
- Provide quality 1:1 and 2:1 nursing care
- Decrease patient wait times for procedures to be completed
- Removal of stress placed on the Operating Room and Interventional Radiology for non-surgical and radiological procedures
- Potentially increase in OR and IR availability by off loading these patients from the schedule

- Provide high quality patient care through safe, developmentally appropriate means

Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing: The utilization of a Pediatric Sedation Unit has significant benefits for both the patient as well as the hospital. The Sedation Unit can provide a service which meets the specific needs of a subset of patients. At the same time, the overall efficiency in other areas of the hospital may be increased by managing these patients to the level of care required.