Clinical Practice Frequently Asked Question

Q: My patient received Narcan in PACU. How long does my patient need to stay in Phase I? What about sugammadex? Does that apply to the 2-hour window?

A: A minimum of two hours observation following the administration of a reversal agent unless the patient is transferring to the same level of care with equivalent monitoring capabilities.

If your patient is going to the ICU, the patient does not need to stay in the PACU. If the unit does not have the same monitoring capabilities, the patient needs to stay in the PACU.

Sugammadex Considerations
Sugammadex works differently from other reversal agents. It reverses neuromuscular blockade by binding to and inactivating the paralytic agent, and dosing is weight based.

If the dose is inadequate, this is typically clinically apparent through signs such as poor muscle tone and inadequate ventilation. After sugammadex is administered, monitor the patient for adequate ventilation and return of muscle movement. Once the patient meets Phase I criteria, they may transfer to the next phase of care.