

CHAPTER A: STATEMENT OF INTENT AND GOALS

The purpose of these guidelines is to promote patient safety in the non-hospital setting during procedures that require the administration of local anesthesia, conscious sedation, deep sedation, general anesthesia, or minor or major conduction blockade. Moreover, these guidelines have been developed to provide practitioners performing office-based procedures requiring anesthesia the benefit of uniform professional guidelines regarding qualification of practitioners and staff, equipment, facilities, and policies and procedures for patient assessment and monitoring. Minor procedures in which un-supplemented local anesthesia is used in quantities equal to or less than the manufacturer's recommended dose adjusted for weight, or procedures in which no anesthesia is used are excluded from these guidelines. Nonetheless, it is expected that any practice performing office-based surgery and/or procedures, regardless of anesthesia, will have the necessary equipment, protocol, and qualified clinical health care personnel to handle emergencies resulting from the procedure and/or anesthesia.

Nothing in these guidelines shall supercede the "Rules and Regulations for the Administration of General Anesthesia, Deep Sedation, Conscious Sedation, and Nitrous Oxide Sedation" of the Board of Dentistry (CMR 234-3.00) for those practitioners and facilities that qualify for regulation by the Board of Dentistry.

CHAPTER B: FACILITY REQUIREMENTS

OFFICE FACILITY CLASSIFICATIONS

Offices are classified as Level I, II, or III based upon the level of anesthesia and the complexity of the surgical procedure performed. The facility requirements are detailed below.

1. LEVEL I OFFICES

Level I office surgery includes minor procedures performed under topical or local anesthesia, not involving drug-induced alteration of consciousness other than minimal preoperative anti-anxiety medications.

REQUIREMENTS: It is **recommended** that the surgeon, physician, and clinical health care personnel be certified in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS). These offices must have an established emergency transfer plan.

2. LEVEL II OFFICES

Level II office surgery includes any procedure that requires administration of conscious sedation/analgesia making intra-operative and post-operative monitoring necessary. The surgical procedures are limited to those in which there is only a small risk of surgical and anesthetic complications, and hospitalization as result of these complications is unlikely.

REQUIREMENTS: These offices must maintain full emergency equipment and medications as summarized in Appendix II*. There must be established emergency transfer plans, peer review, and performance improvement programs. Accreditation by one of the agencies listed in Appendix VII* is mandatory.

The surgeon and clinical health care personnel must be currently certified in BCLS. At all times, at least one health care professional who is immediately available (immediately available is defined as a person within the office and not necessarily the person assisting in the procedure) shall **have completed a course** in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) within the previous two years.

3. LEVEL III OFFICES

Level III office surgery includes a procedure that requires, or reasonably should require, the use of deep sedation/analgesia, general anesthesia, or major conduction blockade. The known complications of the surgical procedure may be serious or life threatening.

REQUIREMENTS: These offices must maintain full emergency equipment and medications as summarized in Appendices II and III*. There must be established emergency transfer plans, peer review, and performance improvement programs. Accreditation by one of the agencies listed in Appendix VII* is **mandatory**. At all times, at least one health care professional who is immediately available (immediately available is defined as a person within the office and not necessarily the person assisting in the procedure) shall have completed a course in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) within the previous two years. Recovery shall be monitored by ACLS trained or otherwise qualified clinical health care personnel.

* (supplemental information available upon request of MMS Health Policy/Systems Dept.)

OFFICE FACILITY ADMINISTRATION

The following summarizes the important written documents and policies and procedures that office-based practices are required to develop and implement. The policies and procedures should undergo periodic review and updating.

A. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Written policies and procedures can assist office-based practices in providing safe and quality surgical care, assure consistent personnel performance, and promote an awareness and understanding of the inherent rights of patients.

1. **EMERGENCY CARE AND TRANSFER PLAN:** A plan must be developed for the provision of emergency medical care, as well as the safe and timely transfer of patients to a nearby hospital, should hospitalization be necessary. Age appropriate emergency supplies, equipment, and medication should be provided in accordance with the scope of surgical and anesthesia services provided at the practitioner's office. At least one clinical health care staff member who is qualified in resuscitation techniques and emergency care must be present and available until transfer or until all patients having more than local anesthesia or minor conductive block anesthesia have been medically discharged from the operating room or recovery area.

In the event of untoward anesthetic, medical, or surgical complications or emergencies, personnel must be familiar with the procedures and plans to be followed and able to take the necessary actions. All office personnel must be familiar with a documented plan for the timely and safe transfer of patients to a nearby hospital. This plan must include arrangements for emergency medical services, if necessary, or when appropriate, escort of the patient to the hospital or to an appropriate practitioner. It also must include the obligation to provide pertinent clinical information to the receiving facility. If advanced cardiac life support is instituted, the plan must include immediate contact with emergency medical, i.e., ambulance, services.

The transfer plan must include identification of particular emergency medical services to be summoned, and evidence that those services have agreed, in advance, to be available for such transfers. Representatives of such services should inspect the facility, prior to any emergency transfers, to detect any impediments to prompt transfers. Solutions to such impediments should be incorporated into the emergency transfer plan. Periodic emergency transfer drills, i.e., simulated transfer of a patient to the point of exit from the facility, are strongly recommended. Such drills are recommended to occur at least once per year.

2. **MEDICAL RECORDS:** The practice should have a procedure for initiating and maintaining a health record for every patient evaluated or treated. The record should include a procedure code or suitable narrative description of the procedure and should have sufficient information to identify the patient, support the diagnosis, justify the treatment, and document the outcome and required follow-up care. For procedures requiring patient consent, there should be a documented, informed, written consent. If analgesia/sedation, minor or major conduction blockade, or general anesthesia are provided, a time-oriented anesthesia record should include documentation of the type of anesthesia used, drugs (type and dose) and fluids administered, the record of monitoring of vital signs, level of

consciousness during the procedure, patient weight, estimated blood loss, duration of the procedure, and any complications related to the procedure or anesthesia. Procedures should also be established to assure patient confidentiality and security of all patient data and information.

3. **DOCUMENTATION OF ANESTHESIA CARE¹:** Documentation is a factor in the provision of quality care and, in the case of general anesthesia is the responsibility of an anesthesiologist or a properly supervised Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and his/her supervising physician. If moderate to deep sedation analgesia is used, documentation shall be performed by the supervising physician and the practitioner administering the sedative agents. While anesthesia care is a continuum, it is usually viewed as consisting of pre-anesthesia, peri-anesthesia, and post-anesthesia components. Anesthesia care should be documented to reflect these components and to facilitate review. The record should include documentation of:

Pre-anesthesia evaluation:

~~/~~ Patient interview to review:

~~/~~ Medical history

~~/~~ Anesthesia history

~~/~~ Medication history

~~/~~ Appropriate physical examination

~~/~~ Review of objective diagnostic data (e.g., laboratory, ECG, X-Ray)

~~/~~ Verification of NPO status

~~/~~ Assignment of American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status

~~/~~ Formulation and discussion of an anesthesia plan with the patient and/or responsible adult

Peri-anesthesia (time-based record of events):

~~/~~ Immediate review prior to initiation of anesthetic procedures:

~~/~~ Patient re-evaluation

~~/~~ Check of equipment, drugs, and gas supply

~~/~~ Monitoring the patient (e.g., recording of vital signs)

~~/~~ Amounts of all drugs and agents used, and times given

~~/~~ Type and amounts of all intravenous fluids used, including blood and blood products, and times given

~~/~~ Techniques used

~~/~~ Unusual events during the anesthesia period

~~/~~ Status of the patient at the conclusion of anesthesia

Post-anesthesia:

~~/~~ Patient evaluation on admission and discharge from the post-anesthesia care unit

~~/~~ Time-based record of vital signs and level of consciousness

~~/~~ All drugs administered and their dosage

~~/~~ Type and amounts of intravenous fluids administered, including blood and blood products

~~/~~ Any unusual events including post-anesthesia or post-procedural complications

~~/~~ Post-anesthesia phone calls or visits

4. **INFECTION CONTROL POLICY:** The practice should comply with state and federal regulations regarding infection control. For all surgical procedures, the level of

¹ ASA Standards for Record Keeping

sterilization should meet current OSHA requirements. There should be a procedure and schedule for cleaning, disinfecting, and sterilizing equipment and patient care items. Quality control of sterilization with biologic testing should be performed and recorded at scheduled intervals. Personnel should be trained in infection control practices, implementation of universal precautions, and disposal of hazardous waste products. Protective clothing and equipment should be readily available. In addition, the operating room itself should be appropriately organized for infection control.

5. **PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT:** A performance improvement program should be implemented to provide a mechanism to periodically review (minimum of every six months) the current practice activities and quality of care provided to patients. Level I facilities are encouraged but not required to have Performance Improvement programs. Performance Improvement (PI) can be established by:

- ~~/~~ Establishment of a PI program by the practice
- ~~/~~ A cooperative agreement with a hospital-based performance or quality improvement program
- ~~/~~ A cooperative agreement with another practice to jointly conduct PI activities
- ~~/~~ Cooperative agreement with a peer review organization, a managed care organization, specialty society, or the approved agency that has accredited the office-based surgical facility.

PI activities should include but are not limited to review of mortalities, review of the appropriateness and necessity of procedures performed, emergency transfers, surgical and anesthetic complications, and resultant outcomes (including all postoperative infections); analysis of patient satisfaction surveys and complaints; and identification of undesirable trends, such as diagnostic errors, unacceptable results, follow-up of abnormal test results, and medication errors and system problems. Findings of the PI program should be incorporated into the practice's educational activity.

6. **REPORTING OF ADVERSE INCIDENTS:** All BRM rules regarding reporting adverse incidents should be followed.
7. **FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS AND REGULATIONS:** Federal and state laws and regulations that affect the practice should be identified and procedure developed to comply with those requirements. The following are some of the key requirements upon which office-based practices should focus:
- ~~/~~ Personal Safety (see Occupational Safety and Health Administration information)
 - ~~/~~ Controlled Substance Safeguards
 - ~~/~~ Laboratory Operations and Performance (i.e., CMS CLIA program)
 - ~~/~~ Personnel Licensure Scope of Practice and Limitations
 - ~~/~~ Non-Discrimination (see civil rights statutes and the Americans with Disabilities Act)
 - ~~/~~ Credentialed status of the Office Facility Limitations

Please note, however, that this list is not exhaustive.

8. **PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS:** Office personnel should recognize the basic rights of its patients and understand the importance of maintaining patients' rights. A patients' rights document should be displayed and readily available upon request.

CHAPTER C: CREDENTIALING

The guidelines address the qualifications that each practitioner should possess. The practitioner shall have an appropriate level of training and experience for the specific surgical and anesthetic procedure performed. Criteria considered shall include all of the following:

- 1) Procedure-specific education, training, experience, and successful evaluation
- 2) American Board of Medical Specialties, American Osteopathic Association, American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, or equivalent board certification or eligibility
- 3) Participation in peer review and quality review
- 4) Continuing medical education
- 5) Malpractice coverage
- 6) Active hospital and/or ambulatory surgical center privileges for the same or similar procedures
- 7) Adherence to professional society standards
- 8) Valid state licensure

Unlicensed personnel must not be assigned duties or responsibilities that require professional licensure. Duties assigned to unlicensed personnel should be in accordance with their training, education, and experience and be under the direct supervision of a practitioner.

I. SURGICAL FACILITY: Practices that are currently performing office-based surgery or procedures that require the administration of moderate or deep sedation, or general anesthesia (Level II and III facilities as defined below) shall be accredited by an accreditation agency, including the American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities (AAAASF); Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC); the Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO); or the Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), a division of the American Osteopathic Association; or the Office Anesthesia Evaluation Program of the AAOMS/MSOMS; or any other agency approved by the Massachusetts BRM.

The accreditation organizations listed in the preceding paragraph have instituted a pre-accrediting survey that office-based surgery facilities can undergo before opening. Practices that are not currently performing Level II or III office-based surgery and anesthesia shall be required to pass a pre-accrediting survey from one of the accreditation organizations listed in the preceding paragraph prior to performing any of these procedures. These facilities shall then be required to undergo its definitive accreditation survey six months after it begins performing Level II or III procedures. No accreditation agency report submission is necessary. The capacity of the patient at all times to retain his or her life-protective reflexes and to respond to sensory stimuli (i.e., the depth of sedation or anesthesia)—rather than the specific procedure performed—lies at the core of differentiating Level II from Level III surgery.

A. LEVEL I OFFICE SURGERY:

1. **SCOPE:** Level I office surgery includes:
 - a. Minor procedures performed under topical or local anesthesia not involving drug-induced alteration of consciousness other than minimal preoperative oral anti-anxiety medications.
 - b. Preoperative medications are not required or used other than minimal preoperative oral anti-anxiety-producing drugs; anesthesia is local, topical, or none. No drug-

induced alteration of consciousness other than non-parenteral minimal anxiolysis of the patient is permitted in Level I office surgery.

- c. Chances of complications requiring hospitalization are remote.

B. LEVEL II OFFICE SURGERY:

1. **SCOPE:** Level II office surgery includes the following:
 - a. Any procedure that requires the administration of minimal or moderate intravenous or intramuscular sedation/analgesia, thus making intra-operative and postoperative monitoring necessary.
 - b. Level II office surgery shall be limited to procedures where there is only a moderate risk of surgical and/or anesthetic complications and the likelihood of hospitalization as a result of these complications is unlikely.

C. LEVEL III OFFICE SURGERY:

1. **SCOPE:** Level III office surgery includes the following:
 - a. Level III office surgery is any procedure that requires, or reasonably should require, the use of deep sedation/analgesia, general anesthesia, or major conduction blockade, and/or in which the known complications of the proposed surgical procedure may be serious or life threatening.

II. PRACTITIONER:

- A. The specific office-based surgical procedures and anesthesia services that each practitioner is qualified and competent to perform should be commensurate with practitioner's level of training and experience. Criteria to be considered to demonstrate competence include:
 1. State licensure
 2. Procedure specific education, training, experience, and successful evaluation appropriate for the patient population being treated (e.g., pediatrics)
 3. For physician practitioners, board certification, board eligibility, or completion of a training program in a field of specialization recognized by the ACGME for expertise and proficiency in that field, or demonstration of current competency for the specific procedures. Board certification is understood as American Board of Medical Specialists (ABMS), American Osteopathic Association (AOA), American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (ABOMS), or equivalent board certification as determined by the Massachusetts BRM. For non-physician practitioners, certification that is appropriate and applicable for the practitioner.
 4. Review of professional misconduct and malpractice history
 5. Participation in peer and quality review
 6. Participation in and documentation of continuing education consistent with the statutory requirements and requirements of the practitioner's professional organization
 7. Malpractice insurance coverage
 8. Procedure-specific competence (and credentialing in the use of new procedures/technology), which should encompass education, training, experience, and evaluation and which may include any of the following:
 - a. Adherence to professional society standards

- b. Hospital and/or ambulatory surgical privileges for the scope of services performed in the office based setting
- c. Credentials approved by a recognized accrediting/credentialing organization
- B. Unlicensed or uncertified personnel shall not be assigned duties or responsibilities that require professional licensure or certification. Duties assigned to unlicensed or uncertified personnel should be in accordance with their training, education, and experience and be under the direct supervision of a practitioner.

CHAPTER D: ANESTHESIA

Anesthesia should be administered only by a licensed, qualified, and competent physician or by licensed, qualified, and competent health care personnel under the direct supervision of a licensed, qualified, and competent physician. Qualified individuals who administer analgesic or sedative drugs as part of a medical procedure must have training and experience appropriate to the level of anesthesia administered and function in accordance with their scope of practice. Qualified individuals must have documented competence to administer conscious sedation and to assist in any support or resuscitation measures as required. The individual administering conscious sedation and/or monitoring the patient should not play an integral role in performing the surgical procedure.

As required by existing state regulation, supervision of the sedation/analgesia component of the medical procedure should be performed by a physician who is physically present, who is qualified to supervise the administration of the anesthetic, and who has accepted responsibility for supervision. The physician providing supervision should ensure that an appropriate pre-anesthetic examination is performed, prescribe the anesthesia, ensure that qualified individuals participate, be available for diagnosis treatment and management of anesthesia related complications or emergencies, and ensure the provision of indicated post-anesthesia care.

CHAPTER E: OFFICE PROCEDURES

A. LEVEL I OFFICE PROCEDURES:

1. **TRAINING REQUIRED:** The surgeon is encouraged to pursue continuing medical education in the field for which the services are being provided and in the proper drug dosages, management of toxicity, or hypersensitivity to local anesthetic and other drugs. It is recommended that the practitioner and his/her clinical health care personnel have completed a course in BCLS.

B. LEVEL II OFFICE PROCEDURES

1. **TRAINING REQUIRED:** The surgeon must have staff privileges to perform the same or similar procedure in a hospital or accredited outpatient facility as that being performed in the office setting, or must be able to document satisfactory completion of training—such as board certification or board eligibility by a board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties, American Osteopathic Association, ABOMS, or comparable background, formal training, or experience as determined by the Massachusetts BRM. The surgeon and clinical health care personnel must have completed a course in BCLS. At all times, at least one health care professional who is immediately available (immediately available is defined as a person within the office and not necessarily the person assisting in the procedure) shall have completed a course in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) within the previous two years.

2. **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED:** Emergency resuscitative equipment and a reliable source of oxygen as outlined in the appendix* must be current and readily available. Monitoring equipment should include a continuous suction device, pulse oximeter, and noninvasive blood pressure cuff. Electrocardiographic monitoring must be available for patients with a history of cardiac disease. Age-appropriate sized monitors and resuscitative equipment must be available for pediatric patients. Office surgery facilities must also meet ASA guidelines regarding necessary equipment and supplies.
3. **ASSISTANCE OF OTHER PERSONNEL REQUIRED:** Anesthesia shall be administered or supervised only by a licensed, qualified, and competent physician. Qualified individuals who deliver analgesic or sedative drugs as part of a medical procedure must have training and experience appropriate to the level of anesthesia administered and function in accordance with their scope of practice. Such personnel must have documented competence to deliver conscious sedation and to assist in any support or resuscitation measures as required. The individual administering conscious sedation and/or monitoring the patient should not play an integral role in performing the surgical procedure.

Supervision of the sedation/analgesia component of the medical procedure should be provided by a physician who is physically present, who is qualified by law, regulation, training, board certification or eligibility, or hospital or ambulatory surgery center appointment to perform and supervise the administration of the sedation/analgesia or minor conduction blockade and who has accepted responsibility for supervision. The physician providing supervision should:

- a. ensure that an appropriate pre-anesthetic examination and evaluation is performed proximate to the procedure
- b. prescribe the anesthesia
- c. ensure that qualified practitioners OR health care personnel participate
- d. remain physically present during the perioperative period until medical discharge criteria are met and be immediately available for diagnosis, treatment, and management of anesthesia-related complications or emergencies
- e. ensure the provision of indicated post-anesthesia care

A registered nurse or other qualified individual practicing within the scope of his or her practice who has completed a course in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS) should monitor the patient postoperatively and have the capability of administering medications as required for analgesia, nausea/vomiting, or other indications. Monitoring in the recovery area should include pulse oximetry and non-invasive blood pressure measurement. The patient should be assessed periodically for level of consciousness, pain relief, or any untoward complication. Each patient should meet discharge criteria as established by the practice, prior to leaving the recovery area or facility. The individual who has completed a course in ACLS within the previous two years should remain in the office-based surgical facility until the patient is medically cleared for discharged.

*(supplemental information available upon request of MMS Health Policy/Systems Dept.)

4. **TRANSFER AND EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS:** The surgeon must have a transfer protocol in effect with a hospital within reasonable proximity.
5. **FACILITY ACCREDITATION:** The surgeon must obtain Level II accreditation of the office setting by one of the approved agencies.

C. LEVEL III OFFICE PROCEDURES

1. TRAINING REQUIRED:

- a. The surgeon must have staff privileges to perform the same or similar procedure in a hospital or accredited outpatient facility as that being performed in the office setting, or must be able to document satisfactory completion of training—such as board certification or board eligibility by a board approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties, American Osteopathic Association, ABOMS, or comparable background, formal training, or experience as determined by the Massachusetts BRM. If he or she is supervising the administration of anesthesia by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA), he or she must have sufficient knowledge of the anesthetic technique specified by him or her for the procedure to provide appropriate medical direction of the anesthetic. The CRNA shall practice pursuant to approved written guidelines developed with the supervising licensed physician or dentist or by the medical staff within the facility where practice privileges have been granted. If the surgeon does not possess the requisite knowledge of anesthesia, the anesthesia should be administered by an anesthesiologist or by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist supervised by an anesthesiologist.
- b. The surgeon and at least one assistant must have completed a course in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS). At all times, at least one health care professional who is immediately available (immediately available is defined as a person within the office and not necessarily the person assisting in the procedure) shall have completed a course in ACLS within the previous two years.
- c. Recovery from general anesthesia or deep sedation shall be monitored by clinical health care personnel who have completed a course in ACLS and BLS within the previous two years (PALS or PLS required if pediatric patients are served by the facility).

2. **EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES REQUIRED:** The following guidelines represent a baseline for the equipment and supplies that are necessary in an office-based surgery facility. In developing these guidelines, the MMS looks to Section IV of the ASA’s guidelines for office-based surgery, “Standards for Basic Anesthetic Monitoring” (please see Appendix I* for the complete text). In addition, office surgery facilities should meet ASA guidelines regarding necessary emergency equipment and supplies (please see Appendix II* for complete list).

* (supplemental information available upon request of MMS Health Policy/Systems Dept.)

- a. Monitoring equipment should include:
 - i. Blood pressure apparatus and stethoscope
 - ii. Pulse oximetry
 - iii. Continuous ECG
 - iv. Capnography (required for all patients undergoing general anesthesia, regardless of the technique, and for all patients in whom positive pressure ventilation is used; strongly recommended for all moderately to deeply sedated patients who are breathing spontaneously)
 - v. Temperature monitoring equipment
- b. Emergency resuscitation equipment, including intravenous therapy equipment, suction, a reliable source of oxygen and the means to deliver it, either to a spontaneously breathing patient or by positive pressure ventilation, must be readily available (See Appendix II*). If agents that may trigger malignant hyperthermia are used (see Appendix II* for list of triggering agents), at least 400 milligrams (20 ampules, by current packaging) of dantrolene sodium must be readily available, as well as a written protocol for the treatment of malignant hyperthermia that must include a protocol for rapid procurement of up to 600 more milligrams of dantrolene sodium.
- c. Facility—in terms of general preparation, equipment, and supplies—must be comparable to a free-standing ambulatory surgical center, have provisions for proper record keeping, and the ability to recover patients after anesthesia. Anesthesia machines, however, are not required unless an inhaled anesthetic gas is used.

3. ASSISTANCE OF OTHER PERSONNEL REQUIRED:

- a. An anesthesiologist, or other qualified physician, or a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist, or a qualified OMS assistant who has successfully completed the AAOMS Anesthesia Assistant Program, directed by a physician, shall administer the general anesthesia, deep sedation, or major conduction regional anesthesia. If the anesthetic is administered by a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist or certified OMS assistant, the anesthetic component of the procedure shall be supervised by a physician who is physically present and who is qualified to supervise the administration of the anesthetic technique specified by him or her and who has accepted responsibility for such supervision. The person administering anesthesia shall not play any other integral role during the procedure. Recovery from general anesthesia, deep sedation, or major conduction blockade should be monitored by clinical health care personnel with Advanced Cardiac Life Support or Pediatric Advanced Life Support (or other profession specific equivalent) training. Recovery from anesthesia should be evaluated by a qualified practitioner for proper anesthesia recovery using criteria that are appropriate for the level of anesthesia.

4. INSPECTION AND ACCREDITATION: The facility or surgeon shall obtain accreditation of the office setting by AAAASF, AAAHC, JCAHO, HFAP/AOA, AAOMS/MSOMS, or

other agency approved by the Massachusetts BRM. All expenses related to accreditation or inspection shall be paid by the surgeon or facility.

CHAPTER F: PATIENT ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE

The following guidelines represent the minimum guidelines for patient admission and discharge. In developing these guidelines, the MMS looks to the ASA's guidelines for office-based surgery, "Guidelines for Anesthesia Care" and "Standards for Post-Anesthesia Care." (Please see Appendix IV* for the complete text.)

- A. PATIENT SELECTION.** The physician shall evaluate the condition of the patient and the potential risks associated with the proposed treatment plan. The physician is also responsible for determining that the patient has an adequate support system to provide for necessary follow-up care. Patients with pre-existing medical problems or other conditions, who are at undue risk for complications, should be referred to an appropriate specialist for preoperative consultation. Patients that are considered at high risk or are assigned a physical classification status III and require a general anesthetic for the surgical procedure should have the surgery performed in a hospital or accredited ambulatory surgery center. Patients with a physical status classification of III or greater may be acceptable candidates for moderate sedation/analgesia. ASA Class III patients should be specifically addressed in the operating manual of the surgery center. They may be acceptable candidates if deemed so by a physician qualified to assess the specific disability and its impact on anesthesia and surgical risks.
- B. INFORMED CONSENT.** The risks, benefits, and potential complications of both the surgery and anesthetic should be discussed with the patient and/or, if applicable, the patient's legal guardian prior to the surgical procedure. Written documentation of informed consent should be included in the medical record.
- C. PREOPERATIVE ASSESSMENT.** A medical history and physical examination should be performed, and appropriate laboratory studies obtained within 30 days of the planned surgical procedure by the surgeon or equally qualified practitioner. The patient should receive NPO instructions that are consonant with current practice standards. A pre-anesthetic examination and evaluation should be conducted immediately prior to surgery by the physician who will be administering or supervising the anesthesia. If a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist will be administering the anesthesia, she or he should collaborate in such examination and evaluation. The information and data obtained during the course of these evaluations should be documented in the medical record.
- D. DISCHARGE EVALUATION.** The physician who administered or supervised the anesthesia should evaluate the patient immediately upon completion of the surgery and anesthesia. Care of the patient may then be transferred to the care of qualified clinical health care personnel in the recovery area. A physician should remain immediately available until the patient meets discharge criteria. Criteria for discharge for all patients who have received anesthesia should include the following:
 - 1. Confirmation of stable vital signs

*(supplemental information available upon request of MMS Health Policy/Systems Dept.)

2. Stable oxygen saturation levels
3. Return to pre-procedure mental status
4. Adequate pain control
5. Minimal bleeding, nausea, and vomiting
6. Resolving or acceptable level of neural blockade, resolution of the neuraxial blockade
7. Discharged in the company of a competent adult

E. PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS. The patient should receive verbal instruction understandable to the patient or guardian, confirmed by written post-operative instructions and emergency contact numbers. The instructions should include:

1. The procedure performed
2. Information about potential complications
3. Telephone numbers to be used by the patient to discuss complications or should questions arise
4. Instructions for medications prescribed and pain management
5. Information regarding the follow-up visit date, time, and location
6. Designated treatment facility in the event of emergency

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

This section defines the common terms used throughout the document. For the purposes of these guidelines, the following terms are defined:

I. OFFICE SITES

- a. “*Hospital*” means a hospital licensed by the state in which it is situated.
- b. “*Office*” means a location at which medical or surgical services are rendered and which is not subject to the jurisdiction and licensing requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH).
- c. “*Anesthetizing location*” means any location in an office where anesthetic agents are administered to a patient.
- d. “*Operating room*” means that location in the office dedicated to the performance of surgery or special procedures.
- e. “*Recovery area*” means a room or limited access clean area of an office dedicated to providing medical services to patients recovering from surgery or anesthesia.

II. TYPES OF SURGERY

- a. “*Surgery*” means any operative or manual procedure, including the use of lasers, performed under the direction of a physician in certain cases, performed for the purpose of preserving health, diagnosing or treating disease, repairing injury, correcting deformity or defects, prolonging life or relieving suffering, or any elective procedure for aesthetic or cosmetic purposes. This includes, but is not limited to, incision with suction removal of subcutaneous tissue; incision or curettage of tissue or an organ; suture or other repair of tissue or an organ; extraction of tissue from the uterus; insertion of natural or artificial implants; closed or open fracture reduction; or an endoscopic examination with use of local or general anesthetic.
- b. “*Office-based surgery*” means the performance of any surgical or other invasive procedure, with or without anesthesia, analgesia, or sedation, including cryosurgery, laser surgery, liposuction, vein excision, and cosmetic surgery, which results in a necessary patient stay of less than 24 consecutive hours and is performed by a practitioner in a location other than a hospital or a diagnostic treatment center, including free-standing ambulatory surgery centers.
- c. “*Major surgery*” means surgery in an office-based facility that requires deep sedation, general anesthesia, or major conduction blockade for patient comfort.
- d. “*Minor surgery*” means surgery that can be safely and comfortably performed on a patient who has received local or topical anesthesia, with or without mild preoperative or intraoperative oral sedation, and where the likelihood of complications requiring hospitalization is remote.
- e. “*Special procedure*” means patient care that requires entering the body with instruments in a potentially painful manner or that requires the patient to be immobile for a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure requiring anesthesia services—for example, diagnostic or therapeutic endoscopy; invasive radiologic procedures, pediatric magnetic resonance

imaging; manipulation under anesthesia or endoscopic examination with the use of general anesthetic.

- f. “*Complications*” means untoward events occurring within 48 hours of any surgery, special procedure, or the administration of anesthesia in an office setting (e.g., paralysis, nerve injury, hyperthermia, seizures, myocardial infarction, infection, unintended hospitalization for more than 24 hours, death, etc.).

III. ANESTHESIA: LOCAL ANESTHESIA AND THE CONTINUUM OF SEDATION

- a. “*Local Anesthesia, Types of*”

Topical	Local	Minor Conduction	Major Conduction
Spray or cream to skin or mucous membrane	Injection to skin or by pressure or refrigeration	Injection to one or more peripheral nerves	Injection to major nerve plexi, epidural or subarachnoid space

- b. “*Topical anesthesia*” means an anesthetic agent applied directly or by spray to the skin or mucous membranes, intended to produce a transient and reversible loss of sensation to a circumscribed area.
- c. “*Local anesthesia*” means the administration of an agent that produces a transient and reversible loss of sensation in a circumscribed portion of the body.
- d. “*Minor conduction block*” means the injection of local anesthesia to stop or prevent a painful sensation in a circumscribed area of the body (that is, infiltration or local nerve block), or the block of a nerve by direct pressure and refrigeration. Minor conduction blocks include, but are not limited to, intercostal, retrobulbar, paravertebral, peribulbar, pudendal, sciatic nerve, facial nerves, digital, and ankle blocks.
- e. “*Major conduction blockade*” means the injection of local anesthesia to stop or prevent a painful sensation in a region of the body. Major conduction blocks include, but are not limited to, axillary, interscalene, and supraclavicular block of the brachial plexus; spinal (subarachnoid), epidural, and caudal blocks.
- f. “*Anesthesia, continuum of sedation*”

	Minimal Sedation (Anxiolysis)	Moderate Sedation/Analgesia (Conscious Sedation)	Deep Sedation/Analgesia	General Anesthesia
Responsiveness	Normal response to verbal stimulation	Purposeful ¹ response to verbal or tactile stimulation	Purposeful response following repeated or painful stimulation ²	Unarousable, even with painful stimulus
Airway	Unaffected	No intervention required	Intervention may be required	Intervention often required
Spontaneous Ventilation	Unaffected	Adequate	May be inadequate	Frequently inadequate
Cardiovascular Function	Unaffected	Usually maintained	Usually maintained	May be impaired

NOTE: Monitored anesthesia care does not describe the continuum of depth of sedation, rather it describes “a specific anesthesia service in which an anesthesiologist has been requested to participate in the care of a patient undergoing a diagnostic or therapeutic procedure.”

² Reflex withdrawal from a painful stimulus is not considered a purposeful response.

- g. “*Minimal sedation*” (*anxiolysis*) is a pharmacologically induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands. Although cognitive function and coordination may be impaired, ventilatory and cardiovascular functions are unaffected. Cardiovascular or respiratory function should remain unaffected and protective-airway reflexes should remain intact.
- h. “*Moderate sedation/analgesia*” (*conscious sedation*) is a drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully¹ to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained. This includes dissociative anesthesia that does not meet the criteria as defined under sustained deep anesthesia or general anesthesia.
- i. “*Deep sedation/analgesia*” means the administration of a drug or drugs that produces sustained depression of consciousness during which patients cannot be easily aroused but respond purposefully following repeated or painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function may be impaired. Patients may require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and spontaneous ventilation may be inadequate. Cardiovascular function is usually maintained but may be depressed.
- j. “*General anesthesia*” means a pharmacologically induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is often impaired. Patients often require assistance in maintaining a patent airway, and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. Cardiovascular function may be impaired. Because sedation is a continuum, it is not always possible to predict how an individual patient will respond. Hence, practitioners intending to produce a given level of sedation should be able to rescue patients whose level of sedation becomes deeper than initially intended. Individuals administering “*moderate sedation/analgesia*” should be able to rescue patients who enter a state of “*deep sedation/analgesia*,” while those administering “*deep sedation/analgesia*” should be able to rescue patients who enter a state of “*general anesthesia*.”
- k. “*Monitoring*” means continuous visual observation of a patient and regular observation of the patient as deemed appropriate by the level of sedation or recovery using instruments to measure, display, and record physiologic values, such as heart rate, blood pressure, respiration, and oxygen saturation.
- l. “*Physical status classification*” means a description of a patient used in determining if an office surgery or procedure is appropriate. The American Society of Anesthesiologists enumerates the following patient classifications:
 - I. Normal, healthy patient
 - II. A patient with mild systemic disease
 - III. A patient with severe systemic disease limiting activity but not incapacitating
 - IV. A patient with incapacitating systemic disease that is a constant threat to life
 - V. Moribund patients not expected to live 24 hours with or without operation

IV. PERSONNEL

- a. *“Advanced cardiac life support trained”* means that a licensee has successfully completed and re-qualifies periodically at recommended intervals at an advanced cardiac life support course offered by a recognized accrediting organization appropriate to the licensee’s field of practice, e.g., for those licensees treating adult patients, advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) for those treating children, pediatric advanced life support (PALS).
- b. *“Anesthesiologist”* means a physician who has successfully completed a residency program in anesthesiology approved by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or who is currently a diplomate of either the American Board of Anesthesiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Anesthesiology, or who was made a Fellow of the American College of Anesthesiology before 1982.
- c. *“Certified registered nurse anesthetist” (CRNA)* means a registered nurse who successfully completed an advanced, organized formal educational program in nurse anesthesia accredited by the national certifying organization of such specialty that is recognized by the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing and is certified by a board approved national certifying organization, and who demonstrates advanced knowledge and skill in the delivery of anesthesia services. The CRNA must practice in accordance with approved written guidelines developed under the supervision of a licensed physician or dentist in accordance with Massachusetts Board of Registration in Nursing regulations.
- d. *“Clinical health care personnel”* refers to office staff members who are licensed or certified by a recognized professional or health care organization such as, but not limited to, a professional registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, physician assistant, or certified medical assistant.
- e. *“Credentialed”* means that a practitioner or physician has been granted, and continues to maintain, the privilege by a facility licensed in the jurisdiction in which it is located or accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation agency as noted above (Table 2) to provide specified services, such as surgery or the administration or supervision of the administration of one or more types of anesthetic agents or procedures, or can show adequate documentation of training experience in specified services such as surgery that is performed more often in an office or outpatient setting.
- f. *“Physician”* means an individual holding an M.D. or D.O. degree licensed pursuant to Massachusetts BRM policy. *“Practitioner”* means a physician or other health care provider.
- g. *“Qualified individual”* means one who is qualified by virtue of education, experience, competence, and where applicable, professional licensure, state laws, and regulations.

V. LICENSING AGENCIES

- a. *“Board”* means the Massachusetts Board of Registration in Medicine.

VI. ACCREDITING AGENCIES

- a. American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities, Inc. (AAAASF)

- b.* Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC)
- c.* Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO)
- d.* Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP), a division of the American Osteopathic Association
- e.* The Office Anesthesia Evaluation Program of the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)/Massachusetts Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (MSOMS)
- f.* Any other agency approved by the Massachusetts BRM within the first year of operation.

**TASK FORCE ON OFFICE-BASED SURGERY
OFFICE-BASED SURGERY GUIDELINES
APPENDICES I - VIII**

**APPENDIX I: ASA GUIDELINES FOR OFFICE-BASED SURGERY (FOR
INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES)**

Section IV: Standards for Basic Anesthetic Monitoring

These standards apply to all anesthesia care although, in emergency circumstances, appropriate life support measures take precedence. These standards may be exceeded at any time based on the judgment of the responsible anesthesiologist. They are intended to encourage quality patient care, but observing them cannot guarantee any specific patient outcome. They are subject to revision from time to time, as warranted by the evolution of technology and practice. They apply to all general anesthetics, regional anesthetics and monitored anesthesia care. This set of standards addresses only the issue of basic anesthetic monitoring, which is one component of anesthesia care. In certain rare or unusual circumstances, 1) some of these methods of monitoring may be clinically impractical, and 2) appropriate use of the described monitoring methods may fail to detect untoward clinical developments. Brief interruptions of continual monitoring may be unavoidable. Under extenuating circumstances, the responsible anesthesiologist may waive the requirements marked with an asterisk (*); it is recommended that when this is done, it should be so stated (including the reasons) in a note in the patient's medical record. These standards are not intended for application to the care of the obstetrical patient in labor or in the conduct of pain management.

STANDARD I

Qualified anesthesia personnel shall be present in the room throughout the conduct of all general anesthetics, regional anesthetics and monitored anesthesia care.

OBJECTIVE

Because of the rapid changes in patient status during anesthesia, qualified anesthesia personnel shall be continuously present to monitor the patient and provide anesthesia care. In the event there is a direct known hazard, e.g., radiation, to the anesthesia personnel which might require intermittent remote observation of the patient, some provision for monitoring the patient must be made. In the

event that an emergency requires the temporary absence of the person primarily responsible for the anesthetic, the best judgment of the anesthesiologist will be exercised in comparing the emergency with the anesthetized patient's condition and in the selection of the person left responsible for the anesthetic during the temporary absence.

STANDARD II

During all anesthetics, the patient's oxygenation, ventilation, circulation shall be continually evaluated. Body Temperature monitoring will be readily available and used when appropriate.

OXYGENATION

OBJECTIVE

To ensure adequate oxygen concentration in the inspired gas and the blood during all anesthetics.

METHODS

1. Inspired gas: During every administration of general anesthesia using an anesthesia machine, the concentration of oxygen in the patient breathing system shall be measured by an oxygen analyzer with a low oxygen concentration limit alarm in use.*
2. Blood oxygenation: During all anesthetics, a quantitative method of assessing oxygenation such as pulse oximetry shall be employed.* Adequate illumination and exposure of the patient are necessary to assess color.*

VENTILATION

OBJECTIVE

To ensure adequate ventilation of the patient during all anesthetics.

METHODS

1. Every patient receiving general anesthesia shall have the adequacy of ventilation continually evaluated. Qualitative clinical signs such as chest excursion, observation of the reservoir breathing bag and auscultation of breath sounds are useful. Continual monitoring for the

presence of expired carbon dioxide shall be performed unless invalidated by the nature of the patient, procedure or equipment. Quantitative monitoring of the volume of expired gas is strongly encouraged.*

2. When an endotracheal tube or laryngeal mask is inserted, its correct positioning must be verified by clinical assessment and by identification of carbon dioxide in the expired gas. Continual end-tidal carbon dioxide analysis, in use from the time of endotracheal tube/laryngeal mask placement, until extubation/removal or initiating transfer to a postoperative care location, shall be performed using a quantitative method such as capnography, capnometry or mass spectroscopy.*
3. When ventilation is controlled by a mechanical ventilator, there shall be in continuous use a device that is capable of detecting disconnection of components of the breathing system. The device must give an audible signal when its alarm threshold is exceeded.
4. During regional anesthesia and monitored anesthesia care, the adequacy of ventilation shall be evaluated, at least, by continual observation of qualitative clinical signs.

CIRCULATION

OBJECTIVE

To ensure the adequacy of the patient's circulatory function during all anesthetics.

METHODS

1. Every patient receiving anesthesia shall have the electrocardiogram continuously displayed from the beginning of anesthesia until preparing to leave the anesthetizing location.*
2. Every patient receiving anesthesia shall have arterial blood pressure and heart rate determined and evaluated at least every five minutes.*
3. Every patient receiving general anesthesia shall have, in addition to the above, circulatory function continually evaluated by at least one of the following: palpation of a pulse, auscultation of heart sounds, monitoring of a tracing of intra-arterial pressure, ultrasound peripheral pulse monitoring, or pulse plethysmography or oximetry.

BODY TEMPERATURE

OBJECTIVE

To aid in the maintenance of appropriate body temperature during all anesthetics.

METHODS

Patient receiving anesthesia shall have temperature monitored when clinically significant changes in body temperature are intended, anticipated or suspected.

Note that "continual" is defined as "repeated regularly and frequently in steady rapid succession" whereas "continuous" means "prolonged without any interruption at any time."

APPENDIX II

Recommended Emergency and Resuscitation Equipment

I. Level I Facility: N/A

II. Level II and III Facilities

- A. Reliable oxygen source with back up tank
- B. Airway equipment: appropriate sized oral airways, endotracheal tubes, laryngoscopes, and masks
- C. Positive pressure ventilation device
- D. Equipment:
 - 1. Defibrillator
 - 2. Double tourniquets if the practice performs Bier blocks
 - 3. Non-invasive blood pressure apparatus
 - 4. Pulse oximeter
 - 5. Capnography
 - 6. Electrocardiographic monitor
 - 7. Temperature monitoring system for procedures lasting more than 30 minutes
 - 8. Oxygen analyzer
- E. Suction apparatus
- F. Drugs:
 - 1. Epinephrine
 - 2. Atropine, glycopyrrolate
 - 3. Antihistamines
 - 4. Hydrocortisone
 - 5. Ephedrine
 - 6. Vasopressors (norepinephrine, phenylephrine, vasopressin, dopamine)
 - 7. Calcium chloride or gluconate
 - 8. Glucose
 - 9. Naloxone

10. Romazicon
11. Antiemetics
12. Sodium bicarbonate
13. Lidocaine
14. Adenosine
15. Magnesium sulfate
16. Digoxin
17. Furosemide
18. Potassium chloride
19. Heparin sodium
20. Aspirin
21. Amiodarone
22. Verapamil
23. Procainamide
24. Nitroglycerin
25. Esmolol
26. Labetolol
27. A minimum of 20 ampules of dantrolene sodium readily available if agents known to trigger malignant hyperthermia are administered. Triggering agents include succinylcholine and potent inhalational anesthetics such as isoflurane, sevoflurane, halothane, desflurane, enflurane, and others.

APPENDIX III

Required Equipment for the Administration of General Anesthesia or Deep Sedation

- A. Equipment as described in Appendix II, A-F
- B. Equipment for the management of the difficult airway
- C. Equipment required only if inhalational anesthesia is used:
 - 1. A properly functioning anesthesia machine.
 - 2. An accepted method of identifying and preventing the interchange ability of anesthetic gases, whenever gases are used
 - 3. Oxygen failure-protection devices (“fail-safe” system) that have the capacity to alert the practitioner when a reduction in oxygen pressure and, at lower levels of oxygen pressure, to discontinue other gases when the pressure of the supply of oxygen is reduced
 - 4. Alarm systems for high, low (sub-atmospheric), and minimum ventilatory pressures (disconnect) in the breathing circuit for each patient under general anesthesia
 - 5. A vaporizer exclusion (“interlock”) system when more than one vaporizer is present
 - 6. Pressure compensated anesthesia vaporizers that are placed in the circuit upstream from the oxygen flush valve
 - 7. Flow meters and controllers, which can accurately measure concentration of the oxygen relative to the anesthetic agent and prevent oxygen mixtures of less than 21 percent from being administered
 - 8. A reliable system for scavenging waste anesthetic gases
 - 9. Equipment and a protocol for the treatment of malignant hyperthermia.
- D. There should be a schedule for regular inspection, maintenance, and servicing of all of the mechanical and electronic equipment, including the anesthesia machine if one is present.

APPENDIX IV: ASA GUIDELINES FOR PATIENT ADMISSION AND DISCHARGE

III. Guidelines for Anesthesia Care:

Preanesthetic evaluation and preparation means that an anesthesiologist:

1. Reviews the chart.
2. Interviews the patient to:
 - a. Discuss medical history, including anesthetic experiences and drug therapy.
 - b. Perform any examinations that would provide information that might assist in decisions regarding risk and management.
3. Orders necessary tests and medications essential to the conduct of anesthesia.
4. Obtains consultations as necessary.
5. Records impressions on the patient's chart.

Perianesthetic care means:

1. Re-evaluation of patient immediately prior to induction.
2. Preparation and check of equipment, drugs, fluids and gas supplies.
3. Appropriate monitoring of the patient.
4. Selection and administration of anesthetic agents to render the patient insensible to pain during the procedure.
5. Support of life functions under the stress of anesthetic, surgical and obstetrical manipulations.
6. Recording the events of the procedure.

Postanesthetic care means:

1. A member of the anesthesia care team remains with the patient as long as necessary.
2. Availability of adequate nursing personnel and equipment necessary for safe postanesthetic care.
3. Informing personnel caring for patients in the immediate postanesthetic period of any specific problems presented by each patient.
4. Assurance that the patient is discharged in accordance with policies established by the Department of Anesthesiology.
5. The period of postanesthetic surveillance is determined by the status of the patient and the judgment of the anesthesiologist.

IV. STANDARDS FOR POSTANESTHESIA CARE

These standards apply to postanesthesia care in all locations. These standards may be exceeded based on the judgment of the responsible anesthesiologist. They are intended to encourage quality patient care, but cannot guarantee any specific patient outcome. Under extenuating circumstances, the responsible anesthesiologist may waive the requirements marked with an asterisk (*); it is recommended that when this is done, it should be so stated (including the reasons) in a note in the patient's medical record.

STANDARD I

ALL PATIENTS WHO HAVE RECEIVED GENERAL ANESTHESIA, REGIONAL ANESTHESIA OR MONITORED ANESTHESIA CARE SHALL RECEIVE APPROPRIATE POSTANESTHESIA MANAGEMENT.¹

1. A Postanesthesia Care Unit (PACU) or an area which provides equivalent postanesthesia care shall be available to receive patients after anesthesia care. All patients who receive anesthesia care shall be admitted to the PACU or its equivalent **except** by specific order of the anesthesiologist responsible for the patient's care.
2. The medical aspects of care in the PACU shall be governed by policies and procedures which have been reviewed and approved by the Department of Anesthesiology.
3. The design, equipment and staffing of the PACU shall meet requirements of the facility's accrediting and licensing bodies.

STANDARD II

A PATIENT TRANSPORTED TO THE PACU SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY A MEMBER OF THE ANESTHESIA CARE TEAM WHO IS KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THE PATIENT'S CONDITION. THE PATIENT SHALL BE CONTINUALLY EVALUATED AND TREATED DURING TRANSPORT WITH MONITORING AND SUPPORT APPROPRIATE TO THE PATIENT'S CONDITION.

STANDARD III

UPON ARRIVAL IN THE PACU, THE PATIENT SHALL BE RE-EVALUATED AND A VERBAL REPORT PROVIDED TO THE RESPONSIBLE PACU NURSE BY THE MEMBER OF THE ANESTHESIA CARE TEAM WHO ACCOMPANIES THE PATIENT.

1. The patient's status on arrival in the PACU shall be documented.
2. Information concerning the preoperative condition and the surgical/anesthetic course shall be transmitted to the PACU nurse.
3. The member of the Anesthesia Care Team shall remain in the PACU until the PACU nurse accepts responsibility for the nursing care of the patient.

STANDARD IV

THE PATIENT'S CONDITION SHALL BE EVALUATED CONTINUALLY IN THE PACU.

1. The patient shall be observed and monitored by methods appropriate to the patient's medical condition. Particular attention should be given to monitoring oxygenation, ventilation, circulation and temperature. During recovery from all anesthetics, a quantitative method of assessing oxygenation such as pulse oximetry shall be employed in the initial phase of recovery.* This is not intended for application during the recovery of the obstetrical patient in whom regional anesthesia was used for labor and vaginal delivery.
2. An accurate written report of the PACU period shall be maintained.
3. General medical supervision and coordination of patient care in the PACU should be the responsibility of an anesthesiologist.
4. There shall be a policy to assure the availability in the facility of a physician capable of managing complications and providing cardiopulmonary resuscitation for patients in the PACU.

STANDARD V

A PHYSICIAN IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DISCHARGE OF THE PATIENT FROM THE POSTANESTHESIA CARE UNIT.

1. When discharge criteria are used, the Department of Anesthesiology and the medical staff must approve them. They may vary depending upon whether the patient is discharged to a hospital room, to the Intensive Care Unit, to a short stay unit or home.
2. In the absence of the physician responsible for the discharge, the PACU nurse shall determine that the patient meets the discharge criteria. The name of the physician accepting responsibility for discharge shall be noted on the record.

¹Refer to Standards of Post Anesthesia Nursing Practice 1992 published by ASPAN, for issues of nursing care.

APPENDIX V: ASA GUIDELINES FOR AMBULATORY ANESTHESIA AND SURGERY

The American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) endorses and supports the concept of Ambulatory Anesthesia and Surgery. ASA encourages the anesthesiologist to play a leadership role as the perioperative physician in all hospitals, ambulatory surgical facilities and office-based settings.

These guidelines apply to all care involving anesthesiology personnel administering ambulatory anesthesia in all settings. These are minimal guidelines which may be exceeded at any time based on the judgment of the involved anesthesia personnel. These guidelines encourage high quality patient care, but observing them cannot guarantee any specific patient outcome. These guidelines are subject to periodic revision, as warranted by the evolution of technology and practice.

- I. ASA Standards, Guidelines and Policies should be adhered to in all settings except where they are not applicable to outpatient care.
- II. A licensed physician should be in attendance in the facility, or in the case of overnight care, immediately available by telephone, at all times during patient treatment and recovery and until the patients are medically discharged.
- III. The facility must be established, constructed, equipped and operated in accordance with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulations. At a minimum, all settings should have a reliable source of oxygen, suction, resuscitation equipment and emergency drugs.
- IV. Staff should be adequate to meet patient and facility needs for all procedures performed in the setting, and should consist of:
 - A. Professional Staff
 1. Physicians and other practitioners who hold a valid license or certificate are duly qualified.
 2. Nurses who are duly licensed and qualified.
 - B. Administrative Staff
 - C. Housekeeping and Maintenance Staff
- V. Physicians providing medical care in the facility should assume responsibility for credentials review, delineation of privileges, quality assurance and peer review.

- VI. Qualified personnel and equipment should be on hand to manage emergencies. There should be established policies and procedures to respond to emergencies and unanticipated patient transfer to an acute care facility.
- VII. Minimal patient care should include:
 - A. Preoperative instructions and preparation.
 - B. An appropriate pre-anesthesia evaluation and examination by an anesthesiologist, prior to anesthesia and surgery. In the event that non-physician personnel are utilized in the process, the anesthesiologist must verify the information and repeat and record essential key elements of the evaluation.
 - C. Preoperative studies and consultations as medically indicated.
 - D. An anesthesia plan developed by an anesthesiologist and discussed with and accepted by the patient.
 - E. Administration of anesthesia by anesthesiologists, other qualified physicians or non-physician anesthesia personnel medically directed by an anesthesiologist.
 - F. Discharge of the patient is a physician responsibility.
 - G. Patients who receive other than unsupplemented local anesthesia must be discharged with a responsible adult.
 - H. Written postoperative and follow-up care instructions.
 - I. Accurate, confidential and current medical records.

APPENDIX VI

Sample Patient's Bill of Rights

1. The patient has the right to high quality health care delivered in a safe and efficient manner.
2. The patient has a right to be treated in accordance with accepted standards of courtesy.
3. The patient has a right to privacy, confidentiality, and consideration of any legitimate concerns.
4. The patient has a right to know his or her diagnosis, treatment options, and prognosis.
5. The risks, benefits, and possible complications of each treatment or procedure need to be addressed.
6. The patient has the right to know the qualifications of the individuals who will be participating in their care.
7. The patient has the right to refuse treatment and be advised of the consequences of this decision.
8. The patient has a right to inspect and obtain a copy of his or her medical records.
9. Charges to the patient to obtain the medical record should not be excessive.
10. The patient has a right to inspect and obtain information regarding the billing services.
11. The patient has a right to request information regarding alternative appropriate care.
12. The patient has a right to know the expectations of his or her behavior and the consequences of not complying with these expectations.

APPENDIX VII

Major Accrediting Agencies

American Association for Accreditation of Ambulatory Surgical Facilities, Inc.

(AAAASF)

1202 Allanson Road

Mundelein, IL 60060

(847) 949-6058

Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc. (AAAHC)

9933 Lawler Avenue

Skokie, IL 60077-3702

(847) 676-9610

Joint Commission on Accreditation of HealthCare Organizations (JCAHO)

One Renaissance Blvd.

Oak Brook Terrace, IL 60181

(630) 916-5600

Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA)

Administrator, Health Care Financing Administration

Department of Health and Human Services

200 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC 20201

(202) 690-6726

Healthcare Facilities Accreditation Program (HFAP)

A Division of the American Osteopathic Association

142 E. Ontario Street

Chicago, IL 60611-2864

(800) 621-1773

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

9700 West Bryn Mawr Avenue

Rosemont, IL 60018-5701

(800)-822-6637

Contact: Randi Andresen, Associate Executive Director,
Advanced Educations & Professional Affairs

APPENDIX VIII
Useful Administrative Information

- A. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
OSHA is a division of the US Department of labor and is responsible for the enforcement of the health and safety guidelines set forth in the OSHA Act of 1970. Practices are subject to OSHA Hazard Communications Standard of 1987 and the Blood Borne Pathogen Standard 29 CFR 1910.1030. Both standards have very specific requirements and require written policy manuals and formal training regarding the standards. Other applicable OSHA standards include Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records, and Personal Protective Equipment. Copies of OSHA standards can be obtained by contacting the local office of the South Carolina Department of Labor.
- B. Americans with Disabilities Act
Copies may be obtained by calling the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission at 1-800-669-4000
- C. National Fire Protection Association- NFPA Life Safety Code
Copies may be obtained by writing to:
National Fire Protection Association
One Batterymarch Park
PO Box 9101
Quincy, MA 02269-9101
(617) 770-4543
- D. Codes of Ethical Business and Professional Behavior
American College of Surgeons
55 East Erie Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2797
(312) 202-5000
- E. American Society of Anesthesiologists
520 North Northwest Highway
Park Ridge, IL 60068-2573

(847) 825-5586

www.asahq.org

- F. American Medical Association
515 North State Street
Chicago, IL 60610
1-800-634-6922 or 1-800-621-8335

- G. The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
222 South Prospect Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068-4001
(847) 698-7050
www.aana.com

- H. American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
9700 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Rosemont, IL 60018-5701
(800)-822-6637
Contact: Randi Andresen, Associate Executive Director,
Advanced Educations & Professional Affairs

- I. The American Osteopathic Association
142 E. Ontario Street
Chicago, IL 60611-2864
(800) 621-1773