Safe Procedural Sedation

**AIM:**
To provide practical support for the safe administration of non-anaesthetist administered procedural sedation in NSW hospitals, ensuring availability of appropriate skills, training and resources. The Minimum Standards aim to:

- Reduce adverse outcomes
- Improve service efficiency
- Improve patient experience

**Standard 1**
Pre Procedure
Assessment, triage & risk stratification of all patients receiving procedural sedation.

**Standard 2**
Intra Procedure
Presence of a dedicated clinician with appropriate skills & training (including bag-mask ventilation skills), monitoring & managing the patient’s airway & circulation.

**Standard 3**
Post Procedure
Appropriate monitoring & application of discharge criteria.

**Why safe sedation?**

- 300,000 episodes of procedural sedation are performed in NSW each year, increasing every day.
- Significant variation of practice occurs within Local Health Districts (LHDS) and hospitals.
- Variation in governance arrangements and oversight/support of procedural sedation practice by senior managers and anaesthetic departments.
- Clinical Excellence Commission focus reports.
- Adverse events leading to formal incident reports and root cause analysis.

**Sedation/Anaesthesia Continuum**

- **AWAKE**
  - Conscious sedation
drowsy, responds to command
- **Deeper sedation**
  - responds to pain
- **Unconscious/GA**
  - no response to painful stimulation

**Death**

The resources on Safe Procedure Sedation can be accessed at:

NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation