



Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: TRANSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAM
 (TEE)**

**Policy No.: B865
Supersedes: July 2, 2013
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PURPOSE:

- I. To outline the process for performing a Transesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE).
2. To coordinate the roles and responsibilities of the critical care nurse, sonographer, and cardiologist in the performance of a TEE.

POLICY:

- I. A TEE is performed by a cardiologist with appropriate credentials. Critical care nurse and sonographer will assist with monitoring of the patient.
2. Patient selection: Indication for a TEE is considered appropriate:
 - a. For cardioversion of patients with atrial fibrillation
 - b. When a transthoracic echocardiogram (TTE) is insufficient for the evaluation of: valvular heart disease, valvular prosthetics, endocarditis, cardiac thrombi or emboli, congenital heart disease, cardiac tumors or masses.
3. Contraindications:
 - a. A TEE should **NOT** be performed on patients with the following:
 1. Recent GI bleed, tumors, known esophageal varices or gastric ulcer.
 - n. Tenuous respiratory status.
 - iii. Altered mental status or cannot follow instructions.
 - iv. NPO status less than 6 hours.
 - v. Atlantoaxial disease, severe generalized cervical arthritis, or unstable cervical spine.
4. Written Consent must be obtained prior to this procedure.

PROCEDURE

1. Patient Preparation:
 - a. Must be NPO for a minimum of 6 hours prior to the procedure.
 - b. Verify with patient past problems that they may have experienced with sedation.
 - c. Supplemental oxygen, reversal agents, suction equipment, monitoring equipment, and a crash cart must be immediately available.
 - d. Prior to the procedure, IV access must be established.
 - e. The protocol for conscious sedation will be followed for monitoring of patients including documentation, EKG, pulse oximetry, capnography, and blood pressure monitoring. (See Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Administrative Policy and Procedure: Sedation Guidelines: Monitoring and Discharge Policy# B815)
 - f. Time Out is performed per Universal Protocol (See Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center Administrative Policy and Procedure: Universal Protocol Policy# B504.5)
2. After the procedure is completed, the sonographer should disinfect the TEE probe.

REFERENCES: JOURNAL OF DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL SONOGRAPHY July/August 2005 VOL. 21, NO.4

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