



# Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

## DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

### OPERATING ROOM

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE

**SUBJECT: MONITORING OF THE PATIENT RECEIVING  
LOCAL ANESTHESIA WITHOUT INVOLVEMENT  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY**

**Policy No.: OR51  
Supersedes: ALL  
Reviewed Date: 02/2016  
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**Purpose of Procedure:** To provide guidelines for the monitoring of patients receiving local anesthesia.

**Policy Statement:** Patients receiving Local Anesthesia without the involvement of the Anesthesia Department will be monitored by established guidelines.

**Performed by:** RN

**Policy Guidelines:**

1. Monitoring of patients will be done by a Registered Nurse.
2. Patients receiving local anesthesia will receive the same preoperative preparation as patients receiving other types of anesthesia, including NPO status.
3. Patients scheduled for general anesthesia will not be changed to local anesthesia.
4. The surgeon will determine preoperative lab tests to be completed. All other chart requirements are the same.  
**KEY POINT:** Selection of patients for local anesthesia will be the responsibility of the surgeon, with consultation by an anesthesiologist as needed. Questions regarding suitability of patient for local anesthesia will be referred to Charge Nurse/Nurse Manager. Anesthesiologist consultation will be requested. In the event that a conflict occurs, the Surgical Officer of the Day/Chairman, Department of Surgery will be contacted.
5. Normal IV TKO Saline will be started on all patients receiving local anesthesia.
6. Oxygen will be administered if necessary.
7. Each patient will be monitored for reaction to drugs and for physiological and behavioral changes, as follows:
  - a. Minimum monitoring will include BP, EKG and pulse oximeter every 5 minutes.
  - b. One RN will act as monitoring nurse and one will act as circulating nurse.
8. The surgeon will be informed of any change in the patient's physiological or behavioral status.  
**KEY POINT:** V/S, O<sub>2</sub> saturations and any change in patient's condition will be documented on the Outpatient Surgery Nursing Note.
9. IV medications may only be given by the anesthesia department. If indicated the patient will be done as a Monitored Anesthesia Care.

9. At the completion of the procedure:
    - a. Patient will be evaluated by the surgeon for suitability to be transferred to patient unit, or to be discharged home.
    - b. If IV medication has been given or the patient's condition warrants it, the patient will be taken to the PACU for recovery.
    - c. The receiving patient care unit will be notified prior to the patient's return.
    - d. Inform unit of anticipated return time, condition and any other pertinent information, such as IV's, drains, etc.
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**Reviewed/Revised By:**

Alina Genie-Fernandez, RN, BSN, CNOR

**Reference:**

Guidelines for Perioperative Practice 2015 Edition  
Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

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02/05 – Revised  
09/11 – Reviewed  
12/12 – Reviewed  
02/16 - Reviewed

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