Risk factors that increase risk of respiratory depression have been considered:
- obesity
- low body weight
- concomitant medications (opiates and non-opiates) that potentiate sedative effect of opiate PCA
- pre-existing conditions such as asthma, COPD, and sleep apnea
- advanced age

Pre-procedural cognitive assessment has determined patient is capable of participating in pain management (note: pediatric patients may not be suitable for PCA)

Patient has been provided with information on proper patient use of PCA pump (other recipients of information -- family/visitors) and purpose of monitoring

Two healthcare providers have independently double-checked:
- patient’s identification
- all patient allergies appear prominently on medication administration record (MAR)
- drug selection and concentration confirmed as that which was prescribed
- any necessary dose adjustments completed
- PCA pump settings
- line attachment to patient and tubing insertion into pump

Patient is electronically monitored with both:
- pulse oximetry and
- capnography

Patient satisfactorily assessed for:
- level of pain
- alertness
- adequacy of ventilation

PCA pump settings verified

Electronic monitoring verified:
- pulse oximetry and
- capnography

Patient assessment/condition has been added to flow sheet/chart documenting PCA dosing and monitoring

THIS CHECKLIST IS NOT INTENDED TO BE COMPREHENSIVE. IT IS A SHORT-LIST OF RECOMMENDED STEPS TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE EVENTS AND MAXIMIZE PATIENT SAFETY AND HEALTH OUTCOMES.
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