

PCA Safety Checklist

Physician-Patient Alliance for Health & Safety

PCA Pump Initiation, Refilling, or Programming Change

- 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

PCA Pump Check at Shift Change and Every Hour Since Last Assessment (Recommended)

- 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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