



UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
CARVER COLLEGE
OF MEDICINE

University of Iowa Health Care

Department of Anesthesia

Origination: 8/28/2018
Last Revised: 4/8/2019
Next Review: 4/7/2020
Policy Area: Clinical

Policy: Mandatory Admission due to Postoperative Apnea Risk Following Sedation and Anesthesia for Infants

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish a uniform approach for the required in-hospital observation for infants following deep sedation and/or general anesthesia. This policy is only for infants requiring anesthesia/deep sedation for either minor, elective surgery or non-invasive imaging studies. Such anesthetic exposure for older infants would be completed safely on an ambulatory basis. In addition, this policy is not referencing children with significant co-morbid conditions, or whose surgery itself would require admission.

DEFINITIONS:

EGA - Estimated Gestational Age

PMA - Post Menstrual Age

PACU - Post-Anesthesia Care Unit

Hct - Hematocrit test

POLCY:

- Admit all former term infants *if under 44 weeks PMA/EGA.*
- Admit all former premature infants *if under 60 weeks PMA/EGA.*
- Inform all parents of the need to admit for overnight observation consistent with these rules.
- Advise all parents of infants under 60 weeks PCA that admission might be required, based upon the infants response to anesthesia, and the PACU course.
- These rules will apply equally to both spinal anesthesia, deep sedation and general anesthetic exposures.
- While not routinely required, consideration of Intraoperative Hct testing may be of value in further identifying risk.
- Deep sedation, Spinal and /or General Anesthesia for infants in this age group should be scheduled at first cases whenever feasible. This will allow for a sufficient period for in-hospital observation.

Approval:

Approved by the Pediatric Best Clinical Practice Subcommittee

Approved by the Department of Anesthesia Best Clinical Practice Committee on November 15, 2018

Approved by the Department of Anesthesia Executive Committee on April 8, 2019

Attachments:

[Pediatric Hospitalist Guidelines for Post Anesthetic Monitoring.docx](#)

Approval Signatures

Approver	Date
Cynthia Wong: Chair and Department Executive Officer [DC]	12/20/2018