**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

**POLICY:**

- 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

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**Next Review:** 4/7/2020  
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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

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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Wong: Chair and Department Executive Officer [DC]</td>
<td>12/20/2018</td>
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