

# 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

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

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

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- 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

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- 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

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- PCA pump settings verified

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- Electronic monitoring verified:
  - pulse oximetry and
  - capnography

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- 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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