
Overview

This standard covers the actions involved in reversing anaesthesia, in accordance with European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines regarding anaesthesia delivery and reversal. It includes anticipating, accounting for and reacting to any problems or adverse reactions that might occur as a result of the anaesthesia or as a result of the discontinuation of the anaesthesia. It also includes ensuring that any necessary further pharmaceutical interventions are delivered where required to support the individual following the reversal of the anaesthesia.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

- P1 ensure that the requirement for the anaesthetic intervention has been met and that it is now safe for the anaesthetic intervention to be reversed
- P2 ensure that any appropriate assessments or investigations have been conducted to satisfy any concerns about the suitability and safety of reversing the anaesthetic intervention, responding appropriately to any continuing concerns identified
- P3 anticipate and account for any likely problems or adverse reactions the individual might have as a result of the continuation or reversal of their anaesthetised state
- P4 ensure that the delivery of the anaesthesia has been monitored throughout to ensure that it is reversed at the optimum point for the individual
- P5 interpret the anaesthetic delivery monitors and other relevant machinery regularly, and recognize and respond to any inappropriate monitor readings
- P6 maintain and monitor the depth of anaesthesia delivery to ensure that the individual is always at the correct level of awareness and sensation, so that anaesthesia can be reversed at the optimum point
- P7 stabilize any problems or adverse reactions that may occur in the individual and ensure that their physiological parameters are within acceptable limits prior to reversing the anaesthetic intervention
- P8 take account of all relevant factors when determining whether to reverse the anaesthetic intervention
- P9 evaluate the individuals' likely response to pain upon reversal of the appropriate anaesthetic intervention
- P10 ensure that secondary pharmaceutical interventions are delivered where required to support the individual following the anaesthesia reversal
- P11 reverse the anaesthetic intervention when it is appropriate and safe to do so
- P12 ensure that any post-intervention complications are, where possible, avoided or limited when the anaesthetic intervention is reversed, reacting to any that do arise in a timely and appropriate manner
- P13 monitor the individuals' reflexes and physiological parameters to ensure their appropriate return following reversal of the anaesthetic intervention
- P14 comfort and reassure the individual where possible, supporting them if they are feeling panicked by any confusion, pain or other unusual or unexpected sensations they may be experiencing
- P15 ensure that individuals are in an appropriately stable condition prior to their relocation to a designated post-intervention recovery area
- P16 respect the privacy, dignity and confidentiality of the individual throughout your interaction with them

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- P17 maintain timely, accurate, complete and legible records in accordance with legislation, policies and guidelines and work at all times within appropriate patient and information confidentiality guidelines and protocols
- P18 work within your scope of responsibility and accountability, referring to others where appropriate and/or necessary

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines regarding anaesthesia delivery and reversal
- K2 the health and safety regulations, including COSHH, in the handling of anaesthetic and related equipment and instrumentation
- K3 the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines which affect your work practice
- K4 your role and responsibilities under the current European, national and local legislation, policies, protocols and guidelines with regard to the reversal of anaesthesia
- K5 why it is necessary to obtain informed consent for the delivery of anaesthesia prior to working with an individual and the methods used to achieve this where the individual is not able to give their consent directly (e.g. because they are comatose or have communication differences)
- K6 the legislation, policies and guidance which clarify your scope of practice and the relationship between yourself and other members of staff in terms of delegation and supervision
- K7 why it is important to get positive confirmation of the individual's identity before starting the preparation and effective methods of obtaining positive identification
- K8 the principles of asepsis, maintenance of the sterile field, and the potential consequence of poor practice
- K9 the importance of following standard precautions and the protective clothing which may be worn for the individual's and your protection
- K10 the potential consequences of poor practice in relation to the application of standard precautions
- K11 your role and the importance of working within your own scope of practice
- K12 the roles and responsibilities of other team members
- K13 the principles of local, general and regional anaesthesia and how these relate in practice to anaesthesia reversal
- K14 anatomy, general and system specific physiology and pathology in relation to the successful delivery and reversal of anaesthesia
- K15 the types, properties, function, effect and contra-indications of the anaesthesia commonly used within your scope of practice
- K16 the appropriate methods, procedures and techniques for anaesthesia reversal, inline with current legislation, protocols and guidance in this field of practice
- K17 the procedures, protocols and processes, relating to the preparation and use of anaesthetic and related equipment and instrumentation
- K18 the range of medical/physical conditions, likely to have an impact on the reversal of the anaesthesia, the implications and how to address them

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- K19 the types of equipment used in the anaesthesia process, how to use them and the implications of faulty equipment and incorrect usage.
- K20 the breadth of tests available and their appropriateness in identifying the appropriate time to reverse anaesthesia for the individual
- K21 the processes you would go through in establishing the appropriate course of action for the continued delivery or reversal of anaesthesia
- K22 how to practise in such a way as to minimise complications and risk to individuals
- K23 the types of problems and complications that might arise during the delivery and reversal of anaesthesia and the responses that should be made to deal with them
- K24 the importance of recording information about the anaesthesia reversal clearly, accurately and in a timely and systematic manner
- K25 the types of information that must be recorded in relation to the reversal of anaesthesia

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

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Developed by	Skills for Health
Version number	1
Date approved	June 2010
Indicative review date	June 2012
Validity	Current
Status	Original
Originating organisation	Skills for Health
Original URN	EUSC45
Relevant occupations	Health, Public Services and Care; Nursing and Subjects and Vocations Allied; Healthcare and Related Personal Services
Suite	Emergency, Urgent and Scheduled Care
Key words	emergency care, scheduled care, urgent care