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Beacon Journey: Improving Patient Outcomes: Reducing Adverse Drug Events Using an Inter-Professional Team Approach

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# Beacon Journey: Improving Patient Outcomes: Reducing Adverse Drug Events Using an Inter-Professional Team Approach

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## Plan

Literature states that the use of sedation regimens that include routine reversal of benzodiazepines or narcotic agents are not recommended. An inter-professional team concurred that planned reversals would no longer be the standard of practice for patients post procedural sedation.

## Do

**An inter-professional team:**
- Analyzed current sedation practices and the use of reversal agents
- Reviewed literature related to sedation and analgesia by non anesthesiologists
- Proposed recommendations for practice changes

## Check

**Pre and Post Outcomes data**

Since implementation of this practice change, the Heart and Vascular Center has drastically reduced the number of planned reversals from 60 in 2013 to 6 by the first quarter of 2015.

The Telemetry unit has experienced (8-4-0-0-0) planned reversals for the last 5 consecutive quarters.

Ongoing monitoring of outcomes is performed by the Medication safety pharmacist and reported to the Pharmacy Therapeutics and house wide Performance and Improvement committees

## Act

American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) guidelines and proposed practice changes were reinforced with Cardiology MDs, Electrophysiology MDs, and Practice nurses during monthly and face to face meetings.

### Educational Topics for Nursing Staff:
- ASA guidelines/recommendations for reversal post sedation
- Pharmacokinetics of narcotics and benzodiazepine sedatives and reversal agents
- Created a culture of confidence to empower nurses to speak-up and promote best practice
- Care and monitoring of the patient pre and post sedation
  - Oximetry monitoring
  - ETCO2 monitoring
  - Vital sign frequency
  - Non pharmacological interventions

### Education Methods:
- Unit meetings
- Annual education day
- Monthly newsletters
- Annual computer training on sedation
- Order sets updated to reflect ASA recommended guidelines

## References

