



The Royal College of Emergency Medicine

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Position Statement

Emergency Medicine Advanced Clinical Practitioners (EM-ACPs) providing safe sedation in the adult Emergency Department.

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Scope

This document explains the reasoning behind EM-ACPs being supported to provide safe sedation of **adult** patients within Emergency Departments (EDs), including regarding how to develop and maintain safe sedation practice by their EM-ACP workforce.

Reason for Development

The EM-ACP role is an essential component of the Emergency Medicine workforce*. A qualified ACP will be expected to work at Tier 3 level** and will provide care to patients in all areas of the ED. An EM-ACP will be expected to provide care to patients requiring procedural sedation (PSA) (such as those requiring fracture reduction, DC Cardioversion, etc).

The ability to perform safe PSA is an essential core skill for Tier 3 practitioners. This involves knowledge and competency in several key areas such as safe sedation practice, pharmacology, management of complications and appropriate post sedation care. EM-ACPs are non-medical prescribers that hold accountability for their prescribing rights which is reviewed locally on an annual basis.

In 2012, The Royal College of Emergency Medicine and The Royal College of Anaesthetists jointly published a report*** which made recommendations for sedation by medical staff stating "if other professionals are engaged in the delivery and management of sedation in the Emergency additional local guidance should be provided". The recommendations including the requirement for credentialed advanced airway skills for specific elements of PSA (effectively limiting deep sedation and Paediatric PSA to medical staff).

In 2020, across the UK, EM-ACPs are increasingly recognized as an integral part workforce. With appropriate training and support a Tier 3 level clinician undertaking adult PSA should be a core skill.

Recommendations for EM-ACPs

- Should have emergency airway skills up to but not including drug assisted intubation
- Must have completed the Advanced Life Support (ALS) course or equivalent
- Must have attended an approved educational programme on safe sedation
- Must comply with local guidance and policies with respect to PSA
- Must complete a log book of all sedations performed including adverse events and outcomes
- Must undergo a yearly assessment / WPBA on airway management skills

Recommendations for Organisations / EDs

- Local guidelines for PSA (including non-medical practitioners) should be developed, approved and implemented, which identifies competencies rather than profession
- All sedation (including that undertaken by ACP workforce) must be regularly audited, results presented at local governance meetings, and quality improvement action undertaken if needed
- Safe sedation training and competency sign off by Consultant should be in-situ for the EM-ACP
- Ensure a Consultant or Tier 4 practitioner must be immediately available when EM-ACP providing sedation

*RCEM Creating workforce stability in emergency care: Expected good practice (July 2018)
https://improvement.nhs.uk/documents/3016/EC_workforce_stabilisation_best_practice_guidance_Final.pdf. Accessed July 2020

**RCEM Medical and Practitioner Staffing in Emergency Departments Available at
<https://www.rcem.ac.uk/docs/Workforce/RCEM%20Medical%20and%20Practitioner%20Staffing%20in%20EDs.pdf>. Accessed July 2020.

*** RCEM/RCoA Safe Sedation of Adults in the Emergency Department.
<https://www.rcem.ac.uk/docs/College%20Guidelines/5z7.%20Safe%20Sedation%20in%20the%20Emergency%20Department%20-%20Report%20and%20Recommendations.pdf>. Accessed July 2020