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EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

April 8, 2015

AFL 15-07  
(Rescinds AFL 13-17)

**TO:** General Acute Care Hospitals (GACHs)  
Ambulatory Surgical Centers (ASCs)

**SUBJECT:** Procedural Sedation Policies and Procedures

**AUTHORITY:** Title 42 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Sections 416.42 and 482.52

This All Facilities Letter rescinds previous guidance regarding procedural sedation contained in AFL 13-17. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) advises facilities to refer to the federal regulations and the respective interpretive guidelines provided by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for guidance regarding sedation requirements.

In ASCs, anesthetics must be administered by:

- (1) A qualified anesthesiologist; or
- (2) A physician qualified to administer anesthesia, a certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), or an anesthesiologist's assistant. In those cases in which a non-physician administers the anesthesia, the anesthetist must be under the supervision of the operating physician, and in the case of an anesthesiologist's assistant, under the supervision of an anesthesiologist.

For specific requirements, please refer to Title 42 CFR section 416.42. Appendix L of the State Operations Manual (SOM) provides interpretive guidelines from CMS and can be found at the following link:

[http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap\\_l\\_ambulatory.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_l_ambulatory.pdf)

In hospitals, anesthesia must be administered by:

- (1) A qualified anesthesiologist;
- (2) A doctor of medicine or osteopathy (other than an anesthesiologist);
- (3) A dentist, oral surgeon, or podiatrist who is qualified to administer anesthesia under State law;
- (4) A CRNA who is under the supervision of the operating practitioner or of an anesthesiologist who is immediately available if needed; or
- (5) An anesthesiologist's assistant, who is under the supervision of an anesthesiologist who is immediately available if needed.

For specific requirements, please refer to Title 42 CFR section 482.52. Appendix A of the SOM provides interpretive guidelines from CMS and can be found at the following link:

[https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap\\_a\\_hospitals.pdf](https://www.cms.gov/Regulations-and-Guidance/Guidance/Manuals/downloads/som107ap_a_hospitals.pdf)

The information in this AFL is a brief summary of the information in the CFR related to the administration of anesthesia. Facilities are responsible for following all applicable laws. CDPH's failure to expressly notify facilities of statutory or regulatory requirements does not relieve facilities of their responsibility for following all laws and regulations. Facilities should refer to the full text of all applicable sections of the CFR.

Please contact your district office if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

**Original signed by Jean Iacino**

Jean Iacino  
Deputy Director