

# Emergency Department Propofol Sedation Protocol

Propofol is a very short acting non-opioid sedative-hypnotic agent. Onset of action when given intravenously is <60 seconds. The duration of action is around 10 minutes due to rapid redistribution. It is a useful sedation agent for use in the Emergency Department. It has a relatively narrow therapeutic index, therefore care must be taken to avoid over sedation.

Propofol should only be used by a consultant. Propofol may also be used by other senior members of medical staff who have been individually assessed by a consultant and deemed competent for the use of Propofol sedation.

## **Procedure**

Patients should be assessed and prepared (including consent) as per sedation guidelines in the ED handbook. Nasal capnography should be used for any patient undergoing Propofol sedation.

The patient should be appropriately analgesed prior to commencing sedation. Incremental doses of Propofol should be given, starting with a dose of 0.5mg/kg (up to a maximum of 50mg). After allowing an appropriate time for assessment of sedation (1-2 minutes), further incremental doses of Propofol of 0.25mg/kg (up to a maximum of 25mg) can be given to achieve the appropriate level of sedation. The maximum dose of Propofol should not exceed 1.5mg/kg.

Aftercare of the patient is as for all sedation patients.

Ensure a care plan is completed on EDIS for all patients undergoing sedation.