

Serial: C402
Version: 1.0
Date Issued: 18/05/2021
Effective From: 18/05/2021



Clinical Bulletin



Handover of patients that have received ketamine for procedural sedation

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Review Date: 31/03/2023

Applies To: ~~All staff~~ | Frontline A&E | ~~EOC staff~~ | CFRs | ~~NHS 111~~ | Private providers

Headline action

Patients who have received ketamine for procedural sedation from a Critical Care Paramedic, and in who the effects have fully worn off, are able to be handed over to a band 6 paramedic for onward conveyance and management where the conditions in the attached flowchart have been met.

Links to trust-wide learning and other actions

Ketamine is frequently used by the trust's CCPs to facilitate an isolated procedure (e.g. reduction of a fractured limb). Following the procedure, there is often no further requirement for enhanced analgesia but, until now, CCPs would need to travel with the patient to hospital. This significantly reduces the availability of the trust's critical care provision.

Given that the onset of ketamine is fast, as is its subsequent offset, it is appropriate that where the following conditions are met, that the patient can be handed over for conveyance, allowing the CCP to become available for further tasking;

- There are no ongoing requirements for CCP intervention
- The receiving clinician is a band 6 paramedic, or higher
- The patient is oriented to place and time (or has returned to their pre-ketamine mental state)
- At least 30 minutes has elapsed since the most recent ketamine administration
- The patient is aged 12 years or over
- The receiving clinician is in agreement

Where handover is agreed, the CCP must ensure that all documentation is complete, that the potential for side effects have been discussed (e.g. setting up of suction) and that further analgesic needs have been agreed.

Evidence

CCPs are a scant resource and increased job cycle times means a reduction in critical care cover across the trust. In addition, CCPs are available for 'auto-allocation' to C1 category calls and greater availability will directly help to improve the trust's performance in this area. Most patients

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that have received procedural sedation are very capable of being managed by a paramedic scope of practice.

Other information

This has been discussed with a senior policy officer at the Health & Care Professions Council (HCPC) who have confirmed that the actions within this bulletin would not breach any of a registrant's standards.

Quality impact assessment summary

A Quality Impact Assessment (QIA) has been completed.

Key points

- Where a patient receives ketamine for procedural sedation from a CCP, they may be handed over to a band 6 paramedic when certain conditions are met.
- The attached flow chart must be followed in order to safely hand over the patient.

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