

DOCUMENTATION OF ANESTHESIA CARE
(Approved by House of Delegates on October 12, 1988,
and last amended October 15, 2003)

Documentation is a factor in the provision of quality care and is the responsibility of an anesthesiologist. While anesthesia care is a continuum, it is usually viewed as consisting of preanesthesia, intraoperative/procedural anesthesia and postanesthesia components. Anesthesia care should be documented to reflect these components and to facilitate review.

The record should include documentation of:

I. Preanesthesia Evaluation*

- A. Patient interview to assess:
 - Medical history
 - Anesthetic history
 - Medication history
- B. Appropriate physical examination.
- C. Review of objective diagnostic data (e.g., laboratory, ECG, X-ray).
- D. Assignment of ASA physical status.
- E. Formulation of the anesthetic plan and discussion of the risks and benefits of the plan with the patient or the patient's legal representative.

II. Intraoperative/procedural anesthesia (time-based record of events)

- A. Immediate review prior to initiation of anesthetic procedures:
 - Patient re-evaluation
 - Check of equipment, drugs and gas supply
- B. Monitoring of the patient** (e.g., recording of vital signs).
- C. Amounts of drugs and agents used, and times of administration.
- D. The type and amounts of intravenous fluids used, including blood and blood products, and times of administration.
- E. The technique(s) used.
- F. Unusual events during the administration of anesthesia.
- G. The status of the patient at the conclusion of anesthesia.

III. Postanesthesia

- A. Patient evaluation on admission and discharge from the postanesthesia care unit.
- B. A time-based record of vital signs and level of consciousness.
- C. A time-based record of drugs administered, their dosage and route of administration.
- D. Type and amounts of intravenous fluids administered, including blood and blood products.
- E. Any unusual events including postanesthesia or postprocedural complications.
- F. Postanesthesia visits.

* See Basic Standards for Preanesthesia Care

** See Standards for Basic Anesthetic Monitoring