

SEDATION FOR NUCLEAR MEDICINE STUDIES  
UPDATED: MARCH 2011

FORMER QA POLICY

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Nuclear Medicine (NM) will adhere to the hospital policies on sedation.

- Sedation Policy 8.38
- Pediatric Sedation Policy 8.56

Adult patients requiring sedation will be supervised by the referring service.

Pediatric NM studies are similar to other imaging studies in which patient cooperation is essential to prevent motion artifacts. Sedation for most pediatric patients is essential for patient cooperation during the imaging procedure.

Therefore, sedation of pediatric patients will be the responsibility of the Service with the greatest familiarity with the patient (in most instances, this will be the referring Pediatric Service). There is a hospital-wide pediatric sedation team available and all NM tests will be scheduled through or with this team. Administration of sedation should be done prior to transport, but may be done after the patient arrives in the NM module, should a nurse who will administer the drug accompany the child.

Regardless of whether sedation is administered, the study may be canceled at the Nuclear Medicine faculty discretion, if the patient is unable to lie quietly for the study. The patient will be rescheduled for the next day for inpatients or the next available for outpatients.

### Exception

Intravenous morphine (average dose 3 mg i.v.) used in hepatobiliary scans to determine whether the gallbladder fills, is not considered conscious sedation and is excluded from the conscious sedation policy (hundreds of patients done to date have had no complications). Nuclear Medicine staff or residents inject the dose.

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