

WAC 246-817-776 Discharge criteria for all levels of sedation or general anesthesia. The licensed dentist shall ensure an anesthesia provider assesses patient responsiveness using preoperative values as normal guidelines and discharge the patient only when the following criteria are met, except when their prior baseline is below the noted criteria:

(1) Vital signs including blood pressure, pulse rate and respiratory rate are stable. Vital signs are not required when:

(a) A pediatric ASA I or ASA II patient is undergoing a routine dental procedure using either local anesthetic, nitrous oxide, or both with no other sedating medications; or

(b) A pediatric patient is uncooperative or the emotional condition is such that obtaining vital signs is not possible.

(c) Reasons why vital signs were not obtained must be documented.

(2) The patient is alert and oriented to person, place and time as appropriate to age and preoperative psychological status;

(3) The patient can talk and respond coherently to verbal questioning as appropriate to age and preoperative psychological status;

(4) The patient can sit up unassisted;

(5) The patient can walk with minimal assistance;

(6) The patient does not have uncontrollable nausea or vomiting and has minimal dizziness;

(7) The anesthesia provider has made a discharge entry in the patient's record. Discharge entries must include:

(a) The patient's condition upon discharge; and

(b) The name of the responsible party to whom the patient is released, if a patient is required to be released to a responsible party;

(8) If the patient does not meet established discharge criteria, the anesthesia provider must evaluate the patient and determine if the patient has safely recovered to be discharged. The evaluation determining that the patient can be safely discharged must be noted in the patient's record.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 18.32.0365 and 18.32.640. WSR 24-01-033, § 246-817-776, filed 12/11/23, effective 1/11/24; WSR 09-04-042, § 246-817-776, filed 1/30/09, effective 3/2/09.]