

PROTOCOL FOR: Cardioversion: Care of the Patient Undergoing

**DESIRED**

**PATIENT OUTCOME:** Patient's cardiac rhythm will convert to a sinus rhythm without evidence of life threatening arrhythmias.

**ASSOCIATED**

**STANDARDS:** HAM: Conscious Sedation 08-013

**CLINICAL  
ASSESSMENT****AND CARE:**

1. Prior to cardioversion, assess patient's rhythm and vital signs.
2. Perform a systems assessment prior to and following the procedure.
3. Assess patient's knowledge of procedure.
4. Verify consent form is signed and in patient's chart if patient able to sign.
5. Verify peripheral IV access. Start NS @KVO for flush.
6. Administer sedative for pre-medication as ordered.
7. Administer supplemental O<sub>2</sub> as ordered. Have an ambu-bag w/ face mask and suction set-up at the bedside.
8. Monitor and document vital signs and heart rhythm per Conscious Sedation Protocol, on Conscious Sedation Flowsheet throughout the procedure, then on Special Vital Signs Record/Flowsheet or in electronic record q 15 minutes x 2-post-procedure, then q 2 hours until stable.
8. Monitor and record patient's oxygen saturations throughout procedure, and until fully awake post-procedure. Titrate O<sub>2</sub> to maintain SpO<sub>2</sub> > 90%, or as ordered.
9. Post-procedure when patient is fully awake, may begin sips of liquids. Obtain MD/LIP order for diet if patient seems able to tolerate advancement.
10. Obtain 12-lead ECG post-procedure as per MD/LIP order.
11. Notify MD/LIP of any change in rhythm pre or post procedure, or any change in vital signs.

**PATIENT****TEACHING:**

1. Review purpose and expected outcome of the procedure with the patient/significant other.

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2. Reinforce MD/LIP's explanation of the procedure itself. Keep explanations simple, but thorough.
3. Explain frequency of vital signs and assessments post-procedure; patient will have O<sub>2</sub>; and drowsiness may result from medication given for the procedure.
4. Review effect of medication administered for procedure.

APPROVAL: ICU Standards Committee  
Nursing Standards Committee  
Cardiac Step-Down Standards Committee  
Emergency Department Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/90

REVISION DATES: 1/92, 1/93, 1/95, 3/96 5/97, 8/99, 1/02, 10/03, 11/08, 10/09