

2014 Capnography Requirement for Sedation (4/13)

Recently, an additional requirement was placed on vital signs monitoring of sedated patients. This new requirement, suggested by the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS), requires the monitoring of end tidal carbon dioxide (etCO₂) and is to be implemented by January 2014. The following paragraph is an excerpt from **AAOMS ParCare 2012, Anesthesia in Outpatient Facilities:**

“The use of capnography for patients under moderate sedation, deep sedation and general anesthesia should be instituted in OMS practice and used on these patients effective January 2014 unless precluded or invalidated by the nature of the patient, procedure, or equipment. It is anticipated that this implementation date will allow adequate time for the refinement of materials and methods so as to optimize the use of capnography in an open system.”

Monitoring: Continuous, time-sensitive monitoring is required. Equipment must include:

Blood pressure monitor with an automated time determined capability and a method for recording the data.

ECG monitor to visualize the cardiac rhythms is required for interpretation.

Pulse oximetry must be used to follow the oxygen saturation in the blood throughout the procedure as a measure against the baseline value. Monitors with print and/or storage capability are available.

Capnography should be considered in all anesthetics. During moderate or deep sedation and general anesthesia the adequacy of ventilation shall be evaluated by continual observation of qualitative clinical signs and monitoring for the presence of exhaled carbon dioxide unless precluded or invalidated by the nature of the patient, procedure or equipment. Beginning in 2014, AAOMS Office Anesthesia Evaluations will require capnography for moderate sedation, deep sedation and general anesthesia. Temperature will be monitored if indicated. Consideration should be given to a precordial stethoscope during anesthesia administration to listen to breath sounds and cardiac rhythm. Monitoring equipment should be checked and calibrated in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations

DECS gathered information from 25 clinics to see what they are currently using. For more information on capnography monitoring, which monitors clinics are using and a table of available Capnography Monitors please visit the DECS website at www.airforcemedicine.af.mil/DECS.