



## **Position Statement on Procedural Sedation in New Zealand Rural Hospitals**

The New Zealand Rural Hospital Network Clinical Leaders Forum (“The NZRCL Forum”) acknowledges the work published by Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) in their 2014 Guidelines on Sedation and/or Analgesia for Diagnostic and Interventional Medical, Dental or Surgical Procedures (PS09). The NZRCL Forum acknowledges that elective and deferrable procedures should follow the standards outlined in the PS09. The NZRCL Forum also acknowledges that this guideline is not designed to reflect the challenges of providing unplanned Procedural Sedation and Analgesia (PSA) in rural and regional areas. As such The NZRCL Forum accepts variation as follows:

The NZRCL Forum expects that an appropriately trained clinician, who is not the proceduralist, be dedicated to the monitoring and management of the airway during PSA. This clinician should maintain current certification as evidence of airway management (e.g. CORE-Advanced or equivalent). This clinician does not need to be a doctor. The NZRCL Forum notes that significant evidence exists in the international literature supporting the safety of this approach.

The NZRCL Forum recommends that at least one clinician present should have competence and appropriate training in PSA as defined in PS09 sections 13.1 and 13.2. This clinician may be the proceduralist and in the event of an adverse event related to the PSA this clinician must dedicate their attention solely to the management of the PSA, which may require abandonment of the intended procedure. As such, procedures undertaken in such circumstances must be able to be abandoned in the event of an adverse event associated with the PSA.

The NZRCL Forum acknowledges that a wide range of agents can be used safely for PSA including general anaesthetic agents such as propofol. The NZRCL Forum acknowledges that generous evidence exists to imply safety of these agents when used appropriately by single PSA providers and as such The NZRCL Forum supports the use of such agents by clinicians who have been so trained in their use as per sections 13.1 and 13.2 in the PS09. The NZRCL Forum also acknowledges the use of ketamine for dissociative PSA.

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Signed

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