**PCA Safety Checklist**

**PCA Pump Initiation, Refilling, or Programming Change**

- Risk factors that increase risk of respiratory depression have been considered:
  - obesity
  - low body weight
  - concomitant medications (opiates and non-opiates) that potentiate sedative effect of opiate PCA
  - pre-existing conditions such as asthma, COPD, and sleep apnea
  - advanced age

- Pre-procedural cognitive assessment has determined patient is capable of participating in pain management (note: pediatric patients may not be suitable for PCA)

- Patient has been provided with information on proper patient use of PCA pump (other recipients of information -- family/visitors) and purpose of monitoring

- Two healthcare providers have independently double-checked:
  - patient’s identification
  - all patient allergies appear prominently on medication administration record (MAR)
  - drug selection and concentration confirmed as that which was prescribed
  - any necessary dose adjustments completed
  - PCA pump settings
  - line attachment to patient and tubing insertion into pump

- Patient is electronically monitored with both:
  - pulse oximetry and
  - capnography

**PCA Pump Check at Shift Change and Every Hour Since Last Assessment (Recommended)**

- Patient satisfactorily assessed for:
  - level of pain
  - alertness
  - adequacy of ventilation

- PCA pump settings verified

- Electronic monitoring verified:
  - pulse oximetry and
  - capnography

- Patient assessment/condition has been added to flow sheet/chart documenting PCA dosing and monitoring

**THIS CHECKLIST IS NOT INTENDED TO BE COMPREHENSIVE. IT IS A SHORT-LIST OF RECOMMENDED STEPS TO MINIMIZE ADVERSE EVENTS AND MAXIMIZE PATIENT SAFETY AND HEALTH OUTCOMES.**
Physician-Patient Alliance would like to thank the following healthcare professionals for their thoughts and input on this safety checklist:

Dr. Christian Apfel (UCSF)
Dr. James Berry (Vanderbilt)
Dr. Art Boudreaux (University of Alabama)
Dr. Brendan Carvalho (Stanford)
Dr. Adam Collins (UCSF)
Dr. Saundra Curry (Columbia)
Dr. Rick Dutton (Anesthesia Quality Institute)
Dr. Atul Gawande (Harvard)
Dr. Mike Hawkins (Cogent Healthcare)
Dr. Andrew Kofke (University of Pennsylvania)
Dr. Elliot Krane (Stanford)
Audrey Kuntz, RN (Vanderbilt)
Karen Rago, RN (UCSF)
Dr. Krish Ramachandran (Carilion Clinic)
Dr. Adrienne Randolph (Harvard)
Dr. Julius Pham (JHU)
Dr. Peter Pronovost (JHU)
Dr. Dan Sessler (Cleveland Clinic)
Dr. John Williams (Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists)