

## CRITICAL CARE SEDATION PROTOCOL FOR ADULT MECHANICALLY VENTILATED PATIENTS

1. Assess sedation level using the Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale (RASS) prior to initiating sedation.
2. The physician will order a continuous infusion of sedation from the ICU Sedation Order Set.  
Medications Include:
  - Fentanyl
  - Midazolam (Versed)
  - Propofol (Diprivan)
  - Dexmedetomidine (Precedex)
  - Lorazepam (Ativan)
3. Physician ordered target sedation score using RASS:
  - -0 Alert
  - -1 Drowsy
  - -2 Light Sedation
  - -3 Moderate Sedation
  - -4 Deep Sedation
  - -5 unresponsive
4. The RN will monitor and document the following parameters every hour:
  - Blood Pressure
  - Heart Rate
  - Respiratory Rate
  - SpO<sub>2</sub>
  - RASS Score
5. Discontinue all sedation from 0800 – 1000 for sedation holiday, unless on neuromuscular blocker or contraindicated in patient's condition to assess patients neurological status.
6. Document the "sedation holiday" and patient response, including RASS score every hour.
7. If the patient is not a candidate for extubation:  
→ Restart Sedation at ½ previous dose and titrate to target RASS score.
8. Hold the sedation for a RASS score of -4 to -5, then:
  - Contact the physician
  - Continue to monitor for 1 hour
  - Restart the sedation at half the previous rate
  - Continue monitoring and titrating until RASS is at the prescribed target sedation score

