

Pre-Anesthesia Evaluation

A pre-anesthesia evaluation must be performed for each patient, prior to any inpatient or outpatient surgery or diagnostic or therapeutic procedure requiring anesthesia services, by a person qualified to administer anesthesia*. (§482.52(b)(1))

The pre-anesthesia evaluation/re-evaluation of the patient includes, at a minimum:

- Review of the medical history, including anesthesia, drug and allergy history;
- Interview and examination of the patient;
- Notation of anesthesia risk according to established standards of practice (e.g. ASA classification of risk);
- Identification of potential anesthesia problems, particularly those that may suggest potential complications or contraindications to the planned procedure (e.g., difficult airway, ongoing infection, limited intravascular access);
- Additional pre-anesthesia evaluation, if applicable and as required in accordance with standard practice prior to administering anesthesia (e.g., stress tests, additional specialist consultation);
- Development of the plan for the patient's anesthesia care, including the type of medications for induction, maintenance and post-operative care and discussion with the patient (or patient's representative) of the risks and benefits of the delivery of anesthesia. (§482.52(b)(1))

The patient evaluation or re-evaluation encounter for the purpose of completing this requirement must be performed and documented within 48 hours prior to the delivery of the first dose of medication(s) given for the purpose of inducing anesthesia for surgery or a procedure requiring anesthesia services. (§482.52(b)(1))

This CMS requirement for an evaluation/re-evaluation within 48 hours prior to anesthesia is separate from the Joint Commission Element of Performance 8 of PC.03.01.03 that all patients need to be re-evaluated immediately prior to administering anesthesia.

**Qualified Anesthesia Professional:*

- *A qualified anesthesiologist;*
- *A doctor of medicine or osteopathy (other than an anesthesiologist);*
- *A dentist, oral surgeon, or podiatrist who is qualified to administer anesthesia under State law;*
- *A certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), who, unless exempted in accordance with paragraph (c) of this section, is under the supervision of the operating practitioner or of an anesthesiologist who is immediately available if needed; or*
- *An anesthesiologist's assistant who is under the supervision of an anesthesiologist who is immediately available if needed (§482.52(b)(1))*