Figure 1. Practice algorithm for procedural sedation in paediatric patients

1. Patient being considered for procedural sedation.
2. Does the patient require pharmacologic agents for the purpose of sedation?
   - YES: Perform and document pre-sedation evaluation.
   - NO: Refer to position statement on the management of pain and distress for children undergoing brief diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.
3. Is the patient ASA status I or II AND free of intercurrent illness AND appropriately fasted?
   - YES
   - NO: Obtain anaesthesia consult.
4. Are appropriate resources and personnel available for adequate monitoring and recovery?
   - YES: Ensure emergency equipment is working and rescue medications are readily available.
   - NO: Obtain anaesthesia consult.
5. Apply monitors and establish vascular access.
6. Document medications, dose, route, adequacy of sedation, and vital signs every 5 minutes.
7. Does the patient require emergency interventions (e.g., airway adjuncts, reversal agents or other rescue medications)?
   - YES: Ensure safety of patient.
   - NO: Monitor patient, documenting vital signs every 15 minutes.
9. Document event(s).
10. Identify case for quality assurance review process.

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