

**PARKLAND HEALTH & HOSPITAL SYSTEM  
LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**COMPETENCY VALIDATION  
SELF- ADMINSTERED NITRONOX (BICU/BACU)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>SELF-ADMINSTERED NITRONOX</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Attempt (P or F)</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Attempt (P or F)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1. Ensures there is an order from a Licensed Independent Provider.			
2. Gather equipment: Nitrous Oxide machine, Face Mask			
3. Approach patient and explain:			
A. Analgesic effects of Nitronox (may verbalize).			
B. The patient must hold the mask in place and establish an airtight seal around the mouth & nose (may verbalize).			
4. Take vital signs (may verbalize).			
5. Clean nitrous mask with appropriate antimicrobial solution (may verbalize).			
6. <b>Open tank valves and ensure that the Oxygen and Nitrous Oxide tanks have the proper levels of gas, and that the mixture &amp; line pressure gauges are within the green ranges.</b>			
7. Connect the gas scavenger system to wall suction and turn suction regulator to "full."(if available)			
8. Instruct the patient to hold the mask over mouth & nose and apply enough pressure to make a tight seal (may verbalize).			
9. <b>Is aware that only a physician may apply the face mask if the patient is unable to do so</b> (may verbalize).			
10. Is aware that analgesia occurs in approximately two minutes (may verbalize).			
11. Proceed with procedure when any of the following is expressed by the patient: feelings of relaxation, light-headedness, drowsiness, tingling or numbness in fingers or toes (may verbalize).			
12. Observe that when the patient becomes drowsy, the mask will fall away and no more gas will be delivered (may verbalize).			
13. <b>Discontinue Nitrous Oxide if any of the following symptoms appear: prolonged respiration, irregular breathing, involuntary eye movements, swallowing or gagging, dilated pupils, rigid muscles</b> (may verbalize).			
14. When finished with procedure, turn off both gases and have patient take several more breaths until gauges read "zero." Turn off & disconnect suction (may verbalize).			
15. Clean mask with appropriate antimicrobial solution (may verbalize).			
16. Document patient response to procedure with Nitrous Oxide administration (may verbalize).			
17. State that Nitrous Oxide tank is replaced through Anesthesia, and Oxygen tank is replaced through Respiratory Care.			

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18. State that Nitrous Oxide is contraindicated with hypoxemia, chest injuries, COPD, ETOH intoxication, head injuries, maxillofacial injuries, pediatric patients(who cannot self-administer), suspected pneumothorax, suspected intestinal obstruction, visceral perforation, decompression sickness, and/or pregnancy (except labor).			
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**The completion of this form validates the above nurse's competency for this skill.**

#1 Pass / Fail      Competency Validator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

#2 Pass / Fail      Competency Validator Signature: \_\_\_\_\_