

Procedural Ultrasound Chapter 8

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR PERFORMING UTRASOUND-GUIDED PROCEDURES



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TALKING TO YOUR PATIENTS

Health literacy is the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions. Poor health literacy translates to poorer outcomes and inappropriate use of health care systems.

Decisional capacity allows you to determine if someone has the ability to make a decision.





EXPLAINING THE PROCEDURE FULLY

Informed consent is a process with ongoing two-way communication via disclosure of facts by physicians and an opportunity for the patient to ask questions.

Informed consent includes a discussion of the following key points:

- 1. Nature of the procedure
- 2. Risk of the procedure
- 3. Benefits of the procedure
- 4. Acceptable alternatives to the procedure



However, there may be situations in which procedures must be performed to prevent imminent decompensation or loss of life or limb. Informed consent is often waived in these emergent situations.



EMBRACING A CULTURE OF SAFETY

A culture of safety encompasses the attitude, beliefs, perceptions, and values that employees share in relation to safety in the workplace. When an error occurs, the focus is primarily on what process or system led to the error, instead of who made the error.

Patient care should be

- Safe
- Effective
- Efficient
- Patient centered
- Timely
- Equitable

Ways in which some hospitals have embraced a culture of safety

- Dedicated time-outs before all procedures.
- Specially assembled kits for procedures that include all necessary equipment including sterile barriers.
- Independent observers who can stop the procedure if something is performed incorrectly or if a sterile field is broken.
- Daily discussion on physician rounds to determine if indwelling lines or drains are required.
- Root cause analysis performed on all complications from procedures.



EXPLAINING ULTRASOUND GUIDANCE TO PATIENTS

Point-of-care ultrasound seeks to answer binary questions or to identify a specific structure, like finding landmarks to guide a procedure. Point-of-care ultrasound does not replace traditional, anatomy-based ultrasound.

Benefits of point-of-care ultrasound:

- Rapid
- No exposure to radiation
- Repeatable
- Performed at the patient's bedside
- Often performed by a provider who has clinical context of the patient
- Improves patient satisfaction



MASTERING IMAGE STORAGE AND DOCUMENTATION

Labeling images is important so you and others have a reference of where in the body the image was taken. Include the plane, laterality, and structure.



If you decide to document diagnostic ultrasounds, there are four main required items to include in the documentation:

- 1. Indication
- 2. Location of images obtained
- 3. Findings
- 4. Interpretation



According to the United States' Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services, ultrasound images should typically be saved for 5–7 years.



FURTHER READING

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