

DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER

Standard Operating Procedure Title: Perioperative Vigilance Policy

Policy Number: C 285

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Date Revised:

As anesthesia care providers who are experts in patient monitoring and proponents of vigilance in patient care, we recognize our overriding responsibility to create an environment that optimizes the quality and safety of patient care.

Accordingly, we commit to the following principles:

1. **Patient safety** remains our top priority, and take precedence above all else.
2. **A professional environment** that promotes vigilance and communication enhances patient care and should be maintained throughout the perioperative period.
3. **Information resources** (computers, handbooks, manuals) and communication devices (computers, pagers, phones), should be used only to enhance patient care consistent with our responsibility for perioperative patient safety.
4. **Potentially distracting activities** such as reading, the use of computers other than for charting, playing of music, presence of visitors, and personal conversation should be restricted such that they do not compromise the professional environment that is intended to promote optimal patient care. Certain activities such as loud music or conversation, lengthy personal calls, video games, streaming video content, and personal listening devices are not appropriate in patient care areas.