Creation of a Pediatric Sedation Pocket Card: An Easy Tool
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Introduction: Providers have varying levels of experience with pediatric sedation, and many learners rotate through pediatric sedation units at academic centers. Even experienced providers may not be able to immediately recall drug dosing or pharmacokinetics and similar information needed for successful sedation, especially in the setting of a busy service. Our goal was to create a quick reference pocket card for pediatric sedation, with a focus on scheduled outpatient or stable inpatient sedations.

Methods: We reviewed the pediatric sedation literature, inclusive of review articles and educational materials provided by the Society for Pediatric Sedation (SPS). From this we developed a list of key components and essential information that should be on a quick reference card. Common drugs, as well as their dosages, pharmacokinetics, and common side effects were also pulled from the literature and online medication databases and were reviewed by pediatric pharmacists. A draft of the pocket card was then created and shared with members of our pediatric sedation service, including physicians and nurses. After obtaining feedback and modifying the card appropriately, a final version of the card was approved by the group.

Results: We have created a pediatric sedation quick reference pocket card for use at our institution. It is currently being used by attending physicians, nurses, and rotating learners.

Discussion: Currently we are working with the SPS to adapt our version of the pocket card for widespread dissemination to member organizations. Our card can also be used as a template for other institutions to create their own similar tools. This version of the card is targeted towards scheduled outpatient or stable inpatient sedations, but future versions can be adapted to other settings, such as the emergency department.