

# Peribulbular/Retrobulbular Blocks-MSJ SDCU: Care of Patients Receiving

## Site Applicability:

MSJ Surgical Day Care Unit

## Practice Level:

Basic: RN and LPN

## Need to Know:

Regional/Nerve blocks are a routine form of anesthetic for some surgeries. Local anesthetic is injected near a cluster of nerves to numb only the area of the body that requires surgery.

Patients, who have received a regional block, will be directly monitored for a minimum of 15 minutes post procedure.

The patient must be monitored to assess and document the patient vital signs and any adverse reactions during and after block administration.

## Protocol

### Assessment and Interventions:

1. The surgical site and side marking is done prior to block administration according to the PHC Surgical Site and Side Identification Policy.
2. The physician (ophthalmologist, anesthesiologist or delegate) will prepare/mix and administer the regional/nerve block.
3. The nurse will assess the patient status, monitor and document the vital signs, LOC (level of consciousness) and skin (colour/warmth), before, during and after receiving blocks. Provide comfort measures to patient as needed.
4. Call for help and notify the physician right away if the patient presents with signs and symptoms of complications associated with the regional/nerve block. Continue to assess and monitor the patient's vital signs and LOC until the patient is in stable condition.

### Pre- block:

1. Assess and document baseline vital signs. Vitals signs include:
  - a. blood pressure

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- b. heart rate
  - c. respiratory rate
  - d. oxygen saturation
2. Assess and document level of consciousness (LOC).
3. Ensure intravenous (IV) inserted *prior* to receiving the regional/nerve block.
4. Ensure safety equipment including oxygen and suction are available and working.

### During and immediately after block monitoring

Patients receiving regional/nerve block must receive and meet appropriate monitoring parameters prior to the surgical procedure

1. Assess, monitor and document, LOC, blood pressure, pulse rate, respiratory rate, oxygen saturation and skin (colour/warmth).

### Monitoring parameters:

- Immediately after nerve block injection, then
- at 1 minute x 1, then
- Every 5 minutes x 3

Scoring Legends for Skin:		Scoring Legends for LOC:
<b>F</b> = flesh	<b>W</b> =warm	<b>2</b> = Awake and orientated
<b>y</b> = Cyanotic	<b>Cl</b> =cool	<b>1</b> = Rouseable with minimal stimulation
<b>P</b> = Pale	<b>Cd</b> =cold	<b>0</b> = Non- responsive or responsive only to pain stimuli
<b>D</b> = diaphoretic		

2. **Notify the physician immediately** if the patient exhibits any signs and symptoms of complications associated with the regional/nerve block:
  - **Stimulation:** talkativeness, restlessness, incoherence, excitation, tachycardia, bounding pulse, flushed face, hyperpyrexia, tremors, hyperactive reflexes, muscular twitching, focal or grand mal seizures.
  - **Depression:** drowsiness; disorientation; decreased hearing ability; stupor; syncope; rapid, thready pulse or bradycardia; apprehension; hypotension; pale or cyanotic moist skin; coma.
  - **Other signs:** nausea, vomiting, dizziness, blurred vision, sudden severe headache, precordial pain, extreme pulse rate or blood pressure change, angioneurotic edema (wheeze, laryngeal edema, bronchospasm), rashes, urticaria, severe local tissue reaction.

### Documentation:

1. Document assessment, monitoring and interventions on the appropriate paper based form or electronic health record.

**Related Documents and Resources:**

1. [B-00-12-10052](#) - Cardiac Arrest in O.R.
2. [B-00-13-10151](#) – DT Procedure Rooms Peribulbular/Retrobulbular Block
3. [B-00-12-10055](#) - Preoperative Patient Preparation
4. [B-00-13-10108](#) – Lidocaine Anesthetic Toxicity: Management
5. [B-00-13-10046](#) – Procedural Sedation in Clinics and Procedure Rooms, Protocol
6. [B-00-13-10152](#) – DT Procedure Rooms MSJ: Procedural Sedation: Administration and Monitoring
7. [B-00-07-10019](#) - PHC Allergy/Intolerance Documentation Policy
8. [B-00-011-10021](#) - Surgical Site Identification Policy

**References:**

AORN. (2018). Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices,  
ORNAC. (2017). Recommended Standards, Guidelines, and Position Statements for Perioperative Registered Nursing Practice (13<sup>th</sup> ed.).  
Phillips, N. (2016). Berry & Kohn's Operating Room technique. (13<sup>th</sup> ed.).  
Rothrock, J.C. (2018). Alexander's care of the patient in surgery (16<sup>th</sup> ed.).

**Persons/Groups Consulted:**

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