

Scenario #3

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- An endoscopy center has many procedures scheduled for the day.
- They have veteran staff who are used to getting through procedures quickly.
- Most staff have been at the center for three years or more.

Scenario #3

- A nurse anesthetist is talking with the first patient (Case #1) of the day before the start of the procedure.
- She has a new 50mL single-dose vial of Propofol for the case.
- She draws up the entire vial into a single syringe and administers half to the patient along with other medications.

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- Before the case starts, while nobody else is in the room, she administers a small amount of the Propofol to herself.
- When the surgeon arrives, she administers the remaining Propofol to the patient.
- At the end of the case, she discards the needle and syringe.

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- The nurse anesthetist starts Case #2 with a new 50mL single-use vial of Propofol. For this case, she draws up 20mL and administers it to the patient.
- During the case, an additional 10mL of Propofol is drawn up and administered using the same syringe as the first dose but a new needle.
- At the end of the case, the needle and syringe are discarded in the sharps container; however, 20mL of Propofol remain in the vial. The nurse puts the vial in her pocket to use on the third case of the morning.

Scenario #3

- Case #3 is a very large man.
- During the case, the nurse anesthetist finishes the first bottle of Propofol that she used on Case #2.
- She then opens a new vial of Propofol and administers an additional dose to Case #3 using the same syringe and new needle.

Scenario #3 - Questions

- What, if any, are issues that you see with the nurse anesthetist's practice?
- What is the facility's policy about using single-dose vials for more than one patient?
- What is the procedure for preparing medication? Where is the medication preparation usually done: separate room, in surgery suite, or other?
- Is anesthesia a contracted service for the center? What are the facility's policies about anesthesia providers and medication handling? How is medication use and waste recorded?

Scenario #3

- The nurse anesthetist continues to open new vials of Propofol as needed for her cases throughout the day.
- At the end of the day, she has used five bottles of Propofol on 15 patients.
- She leaves the center with a half-filled bottle of Propofol in her coat pocket.

Scenario #3 - Questions

- How are staff (center/contracted) trained on infection prevention and control/injection safety practices? How often?
- Who monitors infection prevention and control at the facility?
- How are medications within the facility accounted for?

Scenario #3 - Questions

- Does the facility keep logs to ensure that medication vials accessed in the patient treatment area are used for a single patient? This applies to both single and multiple-dose vials.

Scenario #3

- Five and a half months later, the local health department receives a call from a local gastrointestinal (GI) physician.
- He tells the center that he has two patients who both had procedures a few months ago at the ASC and are now positive for hepatitis C.
- They have no traditional risk factors for the disease and were negative for the virus a year ago.

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- The surgery at the ASC is the only health procedure they underwent in the last 12 months.
- The local health department, along with the state health department, begin a public health investigation to determine if the individuals were infected with the virus during their procedures at the ASC.

Scenario #3

- After reviewing patient records and infection prevention and control practices at the ASC, it is determined that patients who received injectable medication from one nurse anesthetist within the last three years, should be tested for bloodborne pathogens.
- She has been employed at the center for three years.

Scenario #3 - Questions

- Does the facility have a policy about the process of patient notification when a disease transmission has been identified?
- Does the policy include testing for bloodborne pathogens (employee/patient)?
- Does the facility maintain a log of healthcare personnel's vaccination/immunization status?

Scenario #3 - Questions

- What is the relationship with the local health department and the facility?
 - Are you aware of which local health department holds jurisdiction over the facility?
 - Is there an established relationship with a representative from the local health department?