POSITION STATEMENT
Recommended minimum Staffing Requirements for Endoscopy Procedures

Definition
To provide a safe working environment for both patients and staff during the performance of endoscopic procedures.

Preamble
The performance of safe endoscopic procedures requires teamwork of the endoscopist, anaesthetist, anesthetic nurse, experienced endoscopy nurses and staff trained in reprocessing scopes.
The provision of inexperienced staff to assist with the procedure either on a rotation basis, annual leave relief or ‘as a pair of hands’ in an emergency is unacceptable.
The patient undergoing an emergency endoscopy is likely to require complex care and interventional therapy, which can be effectively assisted by a competent experienced endoscopy nurse to result in a satisfactory outcome.

Position
The Gastroenterological Nurses College of Australia (GENCA) maintains that:

An experienced Endoscopy Nurse, with therapeutic endoscopic procedure skills, is required solely to assist the endoscopist with the procedure. A second nurse is required to assist the endoscopy nurse with specimen collection to avoid specimen errors and cross contamination. Specimen collection is an essential part of the procedure and requires a second person to check and label correctly. The second nurse can be trained to be the ‘understudy’ when the experiences endoscopy nurse is not available.

If there is a need to move or change the patient’s position during the procedure, it is a health and safety requirement to move the patient in a safe manner. A second nurse or theatre technician can be used to re-positon a patient safely.

The role of anaesthetic nurse is to assist the anaesthetist in airway management and as required especially when the patient has multiple co-morbidities. He/she can also help maintain safety of patient in the endoscopy.

Other nursing support staff will be required for the patient admission, recovery, discharge and reprocessing of equipment.

Non nursing staff must work under the direct supervision of an Endoscopy Nurse.
References


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