



POSITION STATEMENT

Manipulation of Endoscopes during Endoscopic Procedures

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Definitions

For the purpose of this document, SGNA has adopted the following definitions:

Manipulation refers only to the act of advancing or withdrawing the endoscope under the direct supervision of the endoscopist.

Nurse refers to registered nurse, licensed practical nurse, or licensed vocational nurse.

Associate refers to unlicensed assistive personnel such as technicians, technologists, and assistants.

Background

The gastroenterology nurse or associate may be called upon to provide assistance to the endoscopist by manipulating the endoscope, thereby enhancing the diagnostic or therapeutic abilities of the endoscopist.

Position

The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. supports the position that the gastroenterology nurse or associate educated and experienced in endoscopy may assist the endoscopist by manipulating the endoscope when required to facilitate an endoscopic procedure.

SGNA also asserts the following:

1. The nurse or associate who assumes this role must have knowledge of the techniques of endoscope manipulation and understand the complications associated with endoscopy. He or she must be competent to identify the associated symptom(s) and will initiate appropriate interventions under the direction of the endoscopist.
2. It is essential that throughout the endoscopy, the nurse or associate manipulating the endoscope has full view of the lumen by way of a teaching adapter or a video screen.
3. Depending on the level of sedation, a nurse, in addition to the nurse or associate manipulating the endoscope, may be required to monitor the patient (SGNA, 2008; SGNA, 2009).

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