SOCIETY FOR AMBULATORY ANESTHESIA

Outpatient • Office Based • Non-Operating Room

Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA) Checklist For COVID-SAFE Ambulatory Surgical Facilities
5/15/2020

As the number of patients with COVID-19 begins to level off, many states have eased restrictions for resuming elective surgeries. Accordingly, health care facilities are planning a stepped approach to resume care as outlined in our previous SAMBA Statements on Resuming Ambulatory Anesthesia Care, dated 4/18/2020 and on COVID-19 Testing before Ambulatory Anesthesia, dated 5/1/2020. Our statements apply to all ambulatory surgeries and procedures supported by anesthesiologists in hospital operating rooms, non-operating room anesthesia (NORA) locations, ambulatory surgery centers (ASCs), and office-based anesthesia practices. Mainstream media report that patients are reluctant to visit health care facilities, including ASCs, to undergo necessary procedures and surgeries. The expectation of a COVID-FREE environment anywhere is likely not possible; perhaps a more realistic and achievable goal is to be COVID-SAFE. We offer this COVID-SAFE checklist to help ambulatory anesthesiologists create COVID-SAFE environments. This in turn will reassure the public and our patients that we are committed to appropriate measures designed to protect their safety as they receive anesthesia care for their procedures and surgeries. If a facility complies with all of the checklist items on an ongoing basis, it may display the sign (see below) indicating it follows the Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA) COVID-SAFE Checklist measures.

Item	Satisfied	Notes
Preoperative		
Communication to patients and staff on appropriate measures being taken and required to maintain a COVID-SAFE facility		
Hotline for preoperative issues		
Patient phone screen for symptoms		
Preoperative SARS-CoV-2 testing* protocol		
Patient instructions to self-isolate after testing		
SARS-CoV-2 positive patients referred for appropriate care		
Inform patients of one companion per patient or confirm availability for pick up after procedure		

Day of procedure		
Temperature screen for patient and companion		
Symptom screen for patient and companion		
Face masks for patient and for companion entering facility		
Social distancing for everyone in the facility		
Hand hygiene for everyone entering facility		
Evaluate patients in Preoperative holding and limit number of encounters and transitions of care to limit exposures		
Postoperative follow up		
During routine postoperative call ask patients about COVID-19 symptoms		
Staff		
Daily temperature and symptom screening		
SARS-CoV-2 testing/self-quarantine for positive symptoms		
Role-appropriate face masks while in the facility		
Social distancing, hand hygiene, and cough etiquette		
N95 fit test		
Facility		
Compliance with local, state, and national regulations		
Proper cleaning of procedure rooms between cases, including droplet and aerosol control		
Schedule allow appropriate turnover of procedure rooms		
Adequate PPE		
Adequate pharmacy supplies		
Enhanced cleaning of high touch areas (e.g., door handles, elevator buttons, waiting rooms, phones, computer terminals)		
Social distancing and separation of chairs and queuing in gathering areas		

Patient separation at least 6 feet apart or barriers throughout facility		
Regular and adequate cleaning of equipment (e.g., curtain dividers, storage in patient areas)		

*Preoperative SARS-CoV-2 testing closest to the procedure as feasible to get results in time

This information is not intended as medical or legal advice. Anesthesiologists and others should review this information with appropriate medical and legal counsel to assess the applicability of the information to their individual practices, as well we compliance with state and federal law. While SAMBA has made reasonable efforts to provide accurate information, SAMBA does not guarantee the accuracy of all information. SAMBA shall not be liable for omission, typographical errors, or out-of-date information.

The following facility:

is proud to declare that we follow the

Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia

(SAMBA)

COVID-SAFE Recommendations*

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*See Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia (SAMBA) Checklist For COVID-SAFE
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SAMBA has not verified this facility's compliance with the SAMBA Checklist.

Compliance with the Checklist does not guarantee that the risk of transmission has been eliminated.