

# ELECTRONIC TRACKING AND REPORTING OF ANESTHESIOLOGY POSTOPERATIVE VISITS USING AN IPAD APPLICATION

Jason Lane, MD, MPH; Brian Rothman, MD; Paul St. Jacques, MD

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

---

**Introduction:** Regulations and guidelines from entities such as CMS and the ASA toward ensuring compliant and complete postoperative anesthesiology assessments necessitate improved methods of recording and tracking these visits. We expanded an existing perioperative documentation suite to include an integrated postoperative component. We then created an iPad application to facilitate data entry while visiting the patient postoperatively at the bedside.

**Methods:** An AIMS (GasChart) was modified to generate a list of pending post-operative evaluations by comparing a one day old surgical schedule to a current hospital inpatient list. Pending evaluations were presented in a list fashion accessed from the main screen of the iPad application. Each individual postop was recorded on separate screens built into the AIMS system. Fields were included to allow for follow up visits, and critical event reporting. When each encounter is completed and documented, an electronic PDF of the encounter is automatically sent by the system to the EMR. A second de-identified copy of the PDF is sent to the primary anesthesiologist who cared for the patient via secure email.

**Conclusion:** Information technology can be used to successfully create an auditable and traceable post-anesthesia evaluation note. Integrating the post-anesthesia note into a frequently used AIMS documentation system enables users to leverage existing systems knowledge such as patient admission status and patient location to facilitate use of postoperative rounding time. By utilizing a portable iPad application to enter data into the AIMS, efficiency is optimized. We plan to deploy this system at our institution in the near future.

