Introduction:
Approximately 300,000 episodes of procedural sedation occur annually in NSW hospitals. The Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) has addressed the issue of procedural sedation via Professional Standard PS9. This document is considered the “gold standard” for care of the sedated patient. However, full implementation of PS9 has not occurred consistently across NSW.

Aims:
The aim of this project was to support the safe provision of intravenous procedural sedation across NSW public hospitals.

Methods:
The project steps included

1. Formation of a working group
2. Development of three minimum standards
3. Survey of hospital departments, to confirm the appropriateness of the minimum standards
4. Collation of resources
5. Development of toolkit, including audit tool

Results:
The site visits revealed a range of different models of care in NSW for non-anaesthetist sedation provision. The commonest model of care involved proceduralist-directed, nurse administered sedation, with the same nurse clinician monitoring and managing the patients’ airway and haemodynamics. There was considerable variation in the skill level of these nursing staff.

Conclusions:
The authors recommend that consistent, high quality education and training be developed and implemented for all clinical staff who regularly manage sedated patients. This training should involve ALS skills, and must include the ability to provide bag-mask ventilation. This training should be aligned with competency-based assessment.