

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
CENTER FOR SLEEP RELATED DISORDERS
POLICY AND PROCEDURES
SCORING RELIABILITY**

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Effective Date: June, 2010

Policy No: 7.009

Cross Referenced:

Origin: Cardio Pulmonary

Reviewed Date: 04/12

Authority: Cardio/Pulmonary Manager

Revised Date:

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PURPOSE: Regular assessment of scoring reliability for all scoring parameters among all scorers assures the consistency of scoring.

POLICY: All individuals who score sleep records will have quarterly reliability checks with the board certified sleep specialist. Reliability measures are reviewed quarterly by the Medical Director or Board Certified Sleep Physician.

PROCEDURE:

Personnel To Include: Inter-scorer reliability assessments determine the concordance among different scoring personnel within a center. Close concordance of personnel is necessary for accurate interpretation and quality patient management. Consequently, any technologist who, as part of their routine activities, is expected to identify sleep, sleep stages, arousals, limb movements or respiratory events must be included in these evaluations. The individual scorers' results will be compared to the scores of the Sleep Boarded Physician (Director OR Panel Physicians), and this will serve as the "gold standard" for scoring reliability.

Assessments to Include: The following parameters will be compared for each study:

- Sleep staging for epoch-by-epoch agreement
- Respiratory events: central apneas, obstructive apneas, mixed apneas, hypopneas and RERA's
- Limb movements, including periodic limb movements
- EEG arousals

Frequency of Assessments: Comparisons will be made quarterly on 3 polysomnograms per quarter, for a total of 12 polysomnograms per year. Individuals who are in training or who have significant deficiencies will be assessed more frequently. Any scorer is expected to concord within 90% of the "Gold standard". Scorers who fail to meet this standard will be remediated.

Amount to Assess: Reliability assessments only require a sufficient number of epochs to identify an adequate number of each of the assessment areas noted above. In general, comparisons for scoring will be made on 200 consecutive epochs for each polysomnogram.