ASET Position Statement on Unattended Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring

The ASET Position Statement on Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists in the Operating Room (12-1-1998) details responsibilities, qualifications, and competencies of Neurodiagnostic/Neuromonitoring personnel. These recommended criteria are not met when unattended intraoperative neurophysiologic monitoring systems are utilized in the operating room for procedures requiring intraoperative monitoring of neural structures. Additionally, integrated, computer time-locked, detailed documentation of surgical events and monitoring cannot be performed when neuromonitoring systems are unattended.

In the best interest of patient safety, ASET strongly recommends the utilization of qualified Neurodiagnostic/Neuromonitoring personnel during all intraoperative Neuromonitoring procedures. Neuromonitoring is performed during surgical procedures in which the surgeon believes there is a significant risk of neurologic injury, including paralysis or loss of motor function. Due to the significant patient risk involved, ASET recommends that when intraoperative neuromonitoring is performed, at a minimum, ABRET CNIM credentialed*, competent** Neurodiagnostic/Neuromonitoring personnel participate to provide the following: detailed documentation of surgical events, modality specific anesthetic regime guidance, accurate and stable electrode placement, documented waveform description, correlation of critical periods of surgical procedures with documentation of recorded waveforms and communication to the surgeon, electrical safety precautions, troubleshooting expertise, recording instrument malfunction evaluation, and physiological and non-physiological artifact resolution.

*More information about the American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists (ABRET) credential Certification in Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring (CNIM) can be found at the website below.

- American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists: [http://abret.org/](http://abret.org/)

**As described in the ASET Position Statement on Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists in the Operating Room, the ASET IONM Specialist Job Descriptions (1-31-2007), and the National Competencies for Performing Intraoperative Neurophysiologic Monitoring (10-27-2003).

Please refer to the following website for additional information:
• American Society of Electroneurodiagnostic Technologists: [http://aset.org/](http://aset.org/)
  (Professional Competencies and Position Statements Tab)