Minimal Sedation (Anxiolysis) A drug-induced state during which patients respond normally to verbal commands. Although cognitive function and coordination may be impaired, ventilatory and cardiovascular functions are unaffected. This level of sedation often suffices to allow adult patient to overcome their fear of tight spaces (i.e. MRI scanner) or to decrease apprehension prior to a procedure.

Moderate Sedation/Analgesia A drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients respond purposefully to verbal commands, either alone or accompanied by light tactile stimulation. No interventions are required to maintain a patent airway and spontaneous ventilation is adequate. CV function is usually maintained. Moderate sedation is often referred to as conscious sedation, this term is, however, misleading and should no longer be used.

Deep Sedation/Analgesia A drug-induced depression of consciousness during which patients cannot be easily aroused but respond purposefully following repeated or painful stimulation. Reflex withdrawal is not considered a purposeful response. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function may be impaired. Patients may require assistance in maintaining a patent airway and spontaneous ventilation may be inadequate. CV function is usually maintained.

Anesthesia General anesthesia is a drug-induced loss of consciousness during which patients are not arousable, even by painful stimulation. The ability to independently maintain ventilatory function is often impaired. Patients often require assistance in maintaining a patent airway and positive pressure ventilation may be required because of depressed spontaneous ventilation or drug-induced depression of neuromuscular function. CV function may be impaired.