**Plateau Phase**

**DEFINITION:**
Patient stable, acute treatments completed, illness/injury has reached its peak.
Eg: Sepsis resolving, stabilised ventilatory requirements, HI being rewarmed.

**GOALS:**
Sedation: SBS -1 to +1
Pain: MAPS 0 to 3

*When titrating the IV infusion, 10% of original dose means 10% of infusion rate when first reduction made.
If patient returns to theatre whilst in the plateau phase, return to Acute Phase.*

**START HERE**
- Is the patient’s MAP or SBS score greater than the set goal?
  - Yes
    - Has the patient received a previous bolus this hour?
    - Yes
      - Give patient a 20mcg/kg bolus and increase background rate by 20mcg/kg/hr. Return to Acute Phase
    - No
      - Has the patient received a 4th mandatory review?
      - Yes
        - Consider adjunctional pharmacological therapies eg IV midazolam, PO chloral hydrate
      - No
        - Is the patient on oral or IV sedatives?
        - Yes
          - Consider weaning Phase if:
            - Exubation likely
            - Sedation no longer required
        - No
          - Is the patient ready to be weaned from IV or oral drugs?
          - Yes
            - Go to weaning phase
          - No
            - Oral or IV sedatives?
              - Oral
                - Review drug dosages and use of adjucntial pharmacological therapies
              - IV
                - 3 or more boluses in the last 4 hours?
                  - Yes
                    - Consider weaning Phase if:
                      - Exubation likely
                      - Sedation no longer required
                  - No
                    - 1-2 boluses in the last 4 hours?
                      - Yes
                        - Leave infusion at current rate (eg. Perfectly sedated)
                      - No
                        - No bolus in the past 4 hours?
                          - Yes
                            - Consider decreasing the infusion by 10% of original dose (eg. Oral-sedated)
                          - No
                            - Has the patient received IV analgesia and sedation for >48 hrs?
                              - Yes
                                - Consider converting IV sedatives to oral.
                                - See Conversion Box
                              - No
                                - Continue to monitor and assess SBS and MAPS hourly.
                                - Start at beginning of plateau again