STANDARDIZED PROCEDURE
DIGITAL NERVE

These procedures are intended to describe procedures performed by Nurse Practitioners and/or Certified Nurse Midwives (depending on the clinical privileges granted to the individual practitioner) at UC San Diego Health.

1. Policy
   a. Midlevel practitioner may perform digital nerve block
   b. Setting – operating room, in patient unit, or outpatient clinic
   c. Supervision – attending physician

2. Protocol
   a. Database
      i. Digital nerve blocks include the hallux block are ideal from procedure distal to the metatarsophalangeal joints.
      ii. Obtain informed consent from patient or family after explained risks and benefits of procedure.
   b. Action
      i. Wash hands and don protective clothing
      ii. Clean wound and or injection areas with chlorhexidine
      iii. The technique of hallus block is to inject the local anesthetic through the skin at dorsomedial aspect of the hallus and raise a wheal
      iv. Direct the needle inferiorly until the needle tip is palpated at the plantar aspect and then inject.
      v. Continue depositing anesthetic while removing the needle
      vi. Follow the same steps on the lateral aspect of the hallux
      vii. Inject anesthetic at the base of hallux on cross section area which presenting three injections to block four digital nerves.
   c. Record Keeping – procedure will be documented in surgery op note or procedure note.
   d. Consultation - Referral to physician or specialty clinician: conditions for which the diagnosis and or treatment are beyond the scope of the midlevel practitioner’s knowledge and or skill, or for those conditions that require consultation.

VII. RESPONSIBILITY
Please contact the Advanced Practice Council if you need help. The administrative assistant for the Chief Nursing Officer can direct you. Call; 619-543-3438

VIII. HISTORY OF POLICY
Revised by the Committee of Interdisciplinary Practices: 2/26/2014, 9/28/2016
Reviewed by the Medical Staff Credentials Committee: 3/5/2014, 10/6/2016
Approved by the Medical Staff Executive Committee: 3/20/2014, 10/7/2016