Pasero Opioid-induced Sedation Scale (POSS) with Interventions*

S = Sleep, easy to arouse
   Acceptable; no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed

1 = Awake and alert
   Acceptable; no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed

2 = Slightly drowsy, easily aroused
   Acceptable; no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed

3 = Frequently drowsy, arousable, drifts off to sleep during conversation
   Unacceptable; monitor respiratory status and sedation level closely until
   sedation level is stable at less than 3 and respiratory status is satisfactory;
   decrease opioid dose 25% to 50% or notify prescriber or anesthesiologist
   for orders; consider administering a non-sedating, opioid-sparing
   nonopioid, such as acetaminophen or a NSAID, if not contraindicated.

4 = Somnolent, minimal or no response to verbal and physical stimulation
   Unacceptable; stop opioid; consider administering naloxone; notify
   prescriber or anesthesiologist; monitor respiratory status and sedation
   level closely until sedation level is stable at less than 3 and respiratory
   status is satisfactory.

*See appropriate action in italics at each level of sedation.

