

Pain Management: Essential Systems for Quality Care

The following information suggests areas to focus on while evaluating current facility interventions for pain management.

Systems to Review

Key Interventions to Review For Improvement in Pain Management

Organizational Commitment to Pain Management

- Identify key staff to participate in an interdisciplinary workgroup as well as a pain clinical expert in the facility.
- Analyze current pain management practices and current staff knowledge.
- Articulate and implement a standard of practice based on accepted clinical guidelines.
- Establish, and implement policies and protocols related to pain management.
- Provide appropriate level of education to all staff regarding pain management and policies and procedures.
- Establish accountability for pain management policies to ensure procedures are being implemented.
- Articulate and implement a plan to evaluate the success of the pain management program.
- Establish a pain team who will meet on a regular basis to review current practices related to pain management and identify need for improvement.
- Designate responsibility and accountability for monitoring of the entire process.
- Evaluate the facility admission/readmission tools to see if they address the question of whether or not the resident has any pain.

Initial Screening for Pain

- Standardize the screening process for pain (e.g. add screening tool to admission/readmission documentation).
- Institute use of appropriate tools to identify pain in cognitively impaired residents.
- Educate resident and family on their right to pain management, and quick response to their reports of pain.
- Designate responsibility and accountability for initial screening of pain.

Comprehensive Assessment for Pain

- Determine schedule for assessments.
- Evaluate assessment tools to determine if the necessary assessment data is incorporated.
- Develop procedure for incorporating assessment data into resident plan of care.
- Determine responsibility and accountability for implementation of the plan of care.
- Determine process for monitoring the resident's response to the plan of care.
- Determine schedule for reassessment of pain.

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<i>Development of a Plan of Care</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Work with physician and resident to identify causative and relief factors for pain and document in plan of care.▪ Ensure that care plan adheres to accepted clinical guidelines that include both pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions and addresses resident specific goals and actions.▪ Designate responsibility and accountability for care plan development and oversight
<i>Ongoing Screening and Monitoring for Pain</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Institute ongoing use of standardized pain scale tools for cognitively intact and cognitively impaired residents to assess and reassess pain.▪ Determine schedule for ongoing screening (i.e. daily, weekly, monthly), monitoring of pain, and response and satisfaction with regard to pain management.▪ Designate responsibility and accountability for ongoing screening and monitoring.

This material was prepared by the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. (KFMC), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Kansas, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. Publication #8SOW-KS-NHQI-08-48.

