

Pain Care Resource Team Charter

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1. Define/implement standards for pain assessment, treatment, documentation
2. If necessary, amend the hospital's mission statement. Write it with the promise of attentive analgesic care to all patients
3. Define accountability for pain management
4. Inform RN's about readily available analgesics and nondrug interventions
5. Continuously monitor and improve the quality of pain care
6. Provide continuing education opportunities for staff and physicians
7. Introduce the hospital's pain management standards to all new employees during orientation
8. Establish a protocol for communicating pain care plans when patients transition across settings (hospital to assisted living facility or to the floor)
9. Join with patients to integrate a "comfort goal" into their treatment. Pain above the comfort goal will trigger an analgesic dose increase, or other pain-relief intervention
10. Collaborate with Pain Care Team to expand bedside nurse's role in management of advanced main therapies (i.e. administering epidural bolus doses, increasing/decreasing doses, removing epidural catheters)
11. Charge the Pain Care Team with collecting a needs assessment database (from MD's, RN's pharmacists, patients) that shows where change in outdated pain care practices is needed. See that the changes are implemented

Remember...

- Pain issues and problems are ongoing
- Need a solid team to stay on top of them
- Team is vested with the authority and power to make decisions and implement hospital-wide action re: pain and its management