

POLICY



Title: Pain Management

Location: Centennial Hills, Desert Springs Hospital,
Henderson Hospital, Spring Valley, Summerlin,
Valley Hospital

Policy Number: S

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Department of Document Owner: CENTENNIAL HILLS-NV

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Section: Clinical Practice (Hospital Wide) - Provision of Care (PC)

I. SCOPE:

To provide a standardized policy for implementation of a pain management process that is consistent with national pain management standards and regulations and establishes expectations for attitudes, knowledge and skills in pain management

II. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Pain**: unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage or described in terms of such damage. Pain is highly personal and subjective and is whatever the patient says it is, existing whenever he/she says it does. Self-report of pain is considered the most reliable indicator of pain. Pain is often accompanied by emotional and spiritual responses, such as suffering or anguish, and effective management should include measures to address these responses.
- B. **Pain Assessment**: an evaluation of the cause(s) of pain including but not limited to location, intensity, duration, aggravating and relieving factors, effects on activities of daily living, sleep patterns and psychosocial aspects of the patient's life, and effectiveness of current strategies. The assessment includes the rating from the pain screen as one component.
- C. **Pain Management**: the assessment of pain and, if appropriate, treatment in order to assure the needs of those who experience problems with pain are met. Treatment of pain may include the use of medications or application of other modalities.
- D. **Pain Rating Scale**: a tool that is age, cognitive and culturally specific to the resident population to which it is applied and which results in an assessment and measurement of the intensity of pain.

III. POLICY:

- A. A comprehensive pain assessment consistent with the scope of care treatment and services and the patient's condition is completed upon admission and at least once a shift thereafter.
- B. An appropriate method (pain rating scale) is used to assess the patient's pain.
- C. The patient is treated for pain or referred for treatment when appropriate.
- D. The patient is reassessed after treatment for pain to determine the effectiveness of the intervention.
- E. A care plan for pain will be implemented for patients whose pain level is at an unacceptable level.

This policy and any related procedures or guidelines were developed based on available evidence, regulatory standards, and accreditation requirements. Caregivers are accountable for following policies, procedural steps, and/or guidelines as they carry out their responsibilities. However, no clinical policy, procedure, or guideline can account every situation, so caregivers remain responsible for exercising their clinical judgment within their scope of practice and varying from a policy, procedure, or guideline in the event where the patient's circumstances fall outside the scope of the policy.

- F. Appropriate patient education is provided on the patient's risk for pain, the importance of effective pain management, the pain assessment process and the methods for pain management.
- G. Staff is oriented to pain management job responsibilities upon hire and annually thereafter.
- H. Pain management interventions are documented in the patient's medical record.

IV. REFERENCES:

- A. Hospital Accreditation Standards 2013, Joint Commission Resources, Oakbrook, IL 2011.
- B. Lippincott Nursing Procedures and Skills

V. ATTACHMENTS: None