

Pain: Essential Systems for Quality Care

While you evaluate current facility interventions for pain management, consider utilizing the suggestions below to focus your work.

Systems to Review	Key Interventions to Review for Improvement to Pain Management
Organizational Commitment to Pain Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify key staff to participate in an interdisciplinary workgroup. • Analyze current pain management practices. • Articulate and implement a standard of practice based on accepted clinical guidelines. • Establish and implement policies and protocols related to pain management. • Establish accountability for pain management. • Provide appropriate educational materials to physician and nursing staff. • Implement plan to evaluate the quality of the pain management program. • Designate responsibility and accountability for monitoring of the process.
Initial Screening for Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate the facility admission/readmission tools to see if they address the question of whether or not the resident has any pain. • Standardize the screening process for pain (i.e., add screening tool to admission/readmission documentation). • Institute use of appropriate tools to identify pain in cognitively impaired residents. • Designate responsibility and accountability for admission screening.
Comprehensive Assessment for Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.
Development of a Plan of Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designate responsibility and accountability for care plan development and oversight. • Ensure that care plan adheres to accepted clinical guidelines that include both pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions and addresses resident-specific goals and actions.
Ongoing Screening and Monitoring for Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute use of standardized pain scale tools, as appropriate, for cognitively intact and cognitively impaired residents. • Institute schedule to screen with every MDS assessment (i.e., initial, quarterly, change of status, annual). • Determine schedule for ongoing screening (i.e., daily, weekly, monthly) and monitoring of pain and response to pain management. • Designate responsibility and accountability for ongoing screening.