

Pain Assessment and Reassessment

The Problem

Patients may experience pain. Unrelieved pain has adverse physical and psychological effects. We respect and support the right of patients to pain management and, to that end, our goal is to ensure that pain is recognized and addressed appropriately for our patients. During our July, 2007 Joint Commission Survey, the surveyors determined during their patient tracer activities that we were not consistently in compliance with documenting our assessment and reassessment our patients' pain.

Aim/Goal

Our goal was to meet the Joint Commission Standard and assure that 90% of our patients were assessed for pain during our initial meeting with them as well as reassessed in an ongoing way.

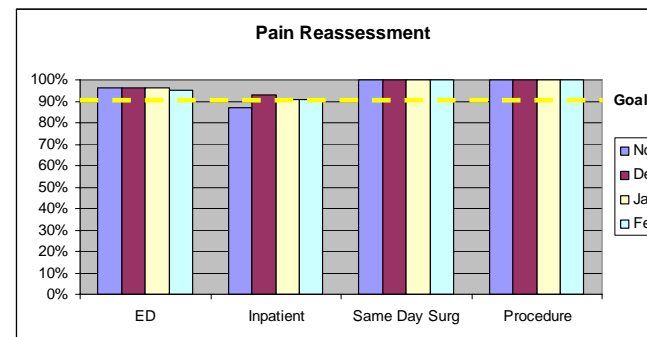
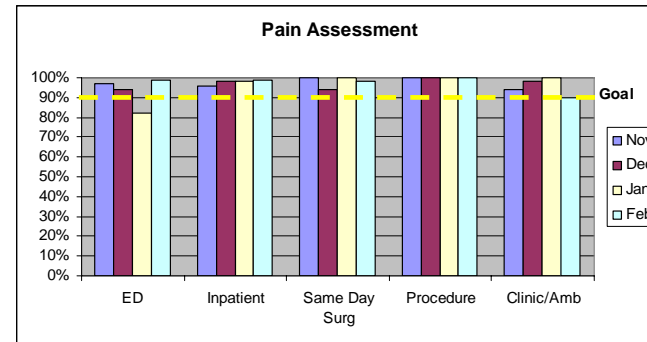
The Team

- Nursing Leadership
- Acute Pain Service Clinical Nurse Specialists
- Pain Assessment Task Force
- Nursing Practice Council
- Nursing Quality and Safety Council

The Interventions

- Pain Policy revised clearly defining:
 - frequency of pain assessment and reassessment
 - location of documentation
- Online Pain competency created and completed by all nurses
- Revision of Medication Administration Record to allow documentation of the patient's pain level at time of pain medication administration

The Results/Progress to Date



Lessons Learned

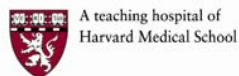
In the past, many solutions had been developed and trialed to improve the documentation around patients' pain. These interventions were not successful. This intervention was successful because it was developed by the staff who do the work everyday with input from the Nursing Shared Governance Councils.

Next Steps/What Should Happen Next:

Ongoing audits to ensure improvements are sustained.



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