

## Measurement Tool for Clinical Practice Guideline Implementation: Measures for Pain Management

Establish process and clinical outcomes measures before implementing the Pain Management in the Long Term Care Setting Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG). As much as possible, identify measurable (quantitative) indicators.

Process measures evaluate how well a facility is implementing related processes of care, e.g., number of patients admitted that are assessed for pain. Outcomes measures look at measurable changes in a patient's condition as a result of treatment or other interventions, e.g., number of patients with documented reduction of pain symptoms. In the past, health care facilities mostly have relied on process measures. Recently, however, quality monitoring organizations have begun to demand outcomes measures. Both are important.

Here are AMDA's suggested quantitative process and clinical outcomes measures related to using a Pain Management CPG in a long-term care facility. These measures are based on the four components of the AMDA pain management process: Recognition, Assessment, Treatment, and Monitoring. Where noted, certain terms will require additional definition by the facility.

All process and clinical outcomes measures should be defined using selected benchmarks, e.g., national norms or the facility's historical norms, if others are not available.

### General Process Measures

*Note: "Documentation" refers to written evidence as to whether a procedure/discussion was indicated/done or not indicated/not done.*

*Rates (percentages) are obtained by multiplying each calculated fraction by 100 (for example, if 15 people were assessed for pain out of 45 who should have been assessed for pain, then the rate is  $(15/45) * 100 = .33 * 100 = 33.3\%$ ).*

All measures marked with an asterisk (\*) are applicable for practitioners only.

## *Clinical Process Measures*

### **Recognition**

| Measure   |
|---|
| % of patients with documented assessment for pain using standardized tool on admission  |
| % of patients with documented assessment for pain using standardized tool at each quarterly review                                      |
| % of patients with documented assessment for pain using standardized tool at each reported change of condition requiring MDS assessment |
| % of patients with cognitive and language deficit receiving targeted pain assessment  |

### **Assessment**

| Measure   |
|---|
| % of patients with documented assessment by licensed nurse of a sufficiently detailed evaluation to characterize the pain                   |
| *% of patients with documentation showing that the practitioner performed laboratory, radiologic, and other diagnostic tests as appropriate |
| *% of patients with documentation by the practitioner that summarizes the characteristics and causes of the patient's pain                  |
| % of patients with documented assessment of the impact of pain on function and quality of life  |

## Treatment

| Measure   |
|---|
| % patients with documented person-centered inter-professional care plan for acute or chronic pain                       |
| % patients with established set goals for pain relief   |
| *% patients with documented medication regimen with evidence of titration/adjustment in accordance with WHO step ladder |
| *% patients on pain medications with adjunctive (CAM, PT etc.) therapies to assist in pain relief                       |
| *% patients on opioid medications receiving an appropriate constipation prevention regime                               |

## Monitoring

| Measure   |
|---|
| *% patients with periodic documented assessment of effectiveness of pain management by practitioner   |
| % patients with periodic documented assessment by licensed nursing staff of effectiveness of pain management  |
| % patients with periodic documented assessment by licensed nursing staff of effectiveness of pain management using same standardized tool pain originally assessed with |
| *% patients with adjustments made to treatment plan by practitioner when pain management plan is not effective  |

### *Clinical Outcome Measures*

| <b>Measure</b>  |
|---|
| % patients with Adverse Drug Reactions (ADRs) related to pain medications |
| % patients with controlled ADRs to pain medications                       |
| % patients with documented reduction of pain symptoms                     |
| % patients documented with achieving pain control goals after treatment   |
| % patients with severe opioid-related constipation or fecal impaction     |