

SUBJECT: PAIN ASSESSMENT, REASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT	REFERENCE #2001
DEPARTMENT: ORGANIZATIONWIDE	PAGE: 1 OF: 5
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

PURPOSE:

- Effective pain assessment and management can remove the adverse psychological and physiological effects of unrelieved pain. Optimal management of the patient experiencing pain enhances healing and promotes both physical and psychological wellness. It is beneficial for the patient and his or her family and/or support structure, as appropriate, to be involved in all aspects of his or her care, including pain management.
- During the assessment process, information shall be gathered on the existence of pain and its effect on many aspects of the patient. Since pain is rarely a static process, the assessment process is ongoing, not simply a one-time event. The information obtained in the assessment allows for the formulation of a plan of care with goals related to pain management.

POLICY:

_____ Hospital shall respect and support the patient’s right to optimal pain assessment and management. Pain is assessed in all patients in the organization. The organization will also address the appropriateness and effectiveness of pain management.

PROCEDURE:

- It is the responsibility of all clinical staff to screen all patients for the presence or absence of pain.
- If the screening assessment reveals pain is present in the patient, it is the responsibility of clinical staff to conduct an indepth clinical assessment of the pain, and periodic reassessments of the patient for determination of pain and relief from pain, including the intensity and quality (i.e., character, frequency, location and duration of pain), and responses to treatment.
 - At time of admission to the facility, the patient will be questioned regarding pain during the initial nursing assessment (pain screening).
 - All other clinical department staff will also question the patient regarding pain during the initial patient assessment performed by that department’s care provider.

SUBJECT: PAIN - PATIENT CONTROLLED ANALGESIA (PCA)	REFERENCE #3007
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APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

POLICY:

- Patient controlled analgesia (PCA) will be offered to patients as a means of controlling pain when appropriate. To provide for the safe and effective administration of opioid analgesics via a PCA infusion device, specific guidelines have been developed and approved by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics and the Intensive Care/Critical Care Committees.
- Candidates: While the organizationwide PCA policy prohibits PCA use in pediatric patients, pediatric patients of seven (7) years of age may receive PCA while in the ICU/CCU after RN assessment has determined understanding and competency of the patient in PCA management.
 - Patients with acute post-surgical pain, trauma-related pain, cancer-related pain or any acute pain state where rapid and reliable pain relief via intravenous route is preferred; age range from seven (7) years to competent, non-confused, compliant geriatric patients
 - Patients excluded from PCA by self-administration include:
 - Confused, agitated, combative patients
 - Patients experiencing extreme restlessness
 - Patients with altered of consciousness (excluding postoperative patients with normal postoperative, transient altered sensorium)
 - Should continuous IV infusion of analgesia felt to be desirable for the above patients, and for pediatric patients under the age of seven (7), nurse-controlled PCA will be administered.

GUIDELINES:

- PCA requires a physician order for medication and dosages. The physician’s order must contain the following information:
 - Name and strength of drug (converted to mg - mg per mL or mcg per mL) based on patient height and weight with considerations of age and clinical condition

SUBJECT: RADIOFREQUENCY ABLATION (RFA)	REFERENCE #3027
DEPARTMENT: ORGANIZATIONWIDE	PAGE: 1 OF: 4
APPROVED BY:	EFFECTIVE: REVISED:

PURPOSE:

Radiofrequency ablation is a treatment option for facet-related back pain that destroys the nerves that supply the facet joint and transmit pain signals.

POLICY:

- Prior to the patient's appointment the anesthesiologist will obtain the patient's medical history, current medications and allergies.
- The anesthesiologist will give the patient pre-procedural diet instructions and medication instructions.
- The patient shall be instructed to bring any prior films or studies on the procedure day.

EQUIPMENT:

- Mayo stand set-up
- Sterile pack with towel, gauze and C-Arm drape
- Fluoroscopy
- Sterile gloves
- _____ mL syringes
- _____ gauge needles
- RF cannula
- RF Microelectrode
- Radiofrequency ablation unit
- Local anesthetic

PATIENT AND FAMILY EDUCATION GUIDELINE PAIN MANAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION:

- Patient and family education and pain control are no longer optional. Clinical guidelines on pain management published by the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research state:

“Each institution must develop an organized program to evaluate the effectiveness of pain assessment and management.”
- Healthcare professionals are accountable for teaching their patients. Standards of care related to patient education have been addressed by The Joint Commission, the National League of Nursing and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).
- The Patient’s Bill of Rights states that patients are to receive information they can use in order to give informed consent. Nurses and other healthcare professionals must educate their patients concerning pain management.

PAIN MANAGEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAM:

- Objectives to be included in a pain management education program:
 - List reasons for educating patients about pain
 - Identify sources for patient and family education in pain management
 - State strategies for patient and family education (both oral and written information and instructions should be provided)
 - Describe the causes of pain
 - Discuss pharmacologic and non-drug ways to achieve pain control
 - Establish patient and family education and treatment plan based on assessment, diagnosis, goals and objectives
 - List the safe and effective use of medication
 - Describe the understanding of pain and the importance of effective pain management
 - Involve appropriate disciplines