

**The Rhode Island Hospital
Standard Practice
Instruction Manual**

Subject:
Pain Management Policy

File Under:
Administration
Admin-135

Issuing Department:

Quality Management

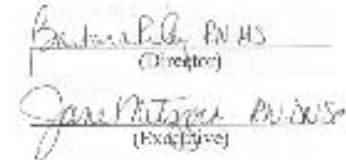
Latest Revision Date:

10/05

Original Procedure Date:
5/99

Page 1 of 1

Approved by:



Handwritten signatures of two individuals, one labeled "Director" and the other "Executive".

Intent:

The intent of this policy is to provide a standard of care for evaluating pain and to assure that safe methods of assessment, monitoring, evaluating, and reassessment of all patients are conducted. This policy is designed to ensure that all patients will be assessed for pain throughout their hospital stay or ambulatory visit, and that every effort will be made to prevent complications related to pain.

The goal is to control or alleviate the patient's pain for its duration, while effectively addressing other aspects of the patient's functioning - including physical, psychological, and social factors.

The medical management of pain is based on current knowledge that includes the use of pharmacological and non-pharmacological modalities. Patients should be assessed and treated promptly and interventions adjusted according to the patient's response to treatment. A resource list is available to enable the health care providers to explore alternatives or adjuncts to pharmacological interventions.

Policy:

Pain is identified during the initial and/or subsequent assessments of the patients. The patient's self-report of pain is the single most reliable indicator of pain, and thus must be recorded as described. This assessment and a measure of the characteristics of the pain are recorded in the treatment or medical record. Assessment of cognitively impaired patients will be obtained through a family member/caregiver and/or as demonstrated by nonverbal cues of pain. An individualized plan of care is developed that includes the management of pain. Pain will be measured using one of the standard pain scales in the facility.

Cross Reference: Nursing Practice Manual, Management of Pain, A-22