Perioperative Management of Chronic Pain Patients: How are we doing?
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**Purpose:** Chronic pain is “pain of a duration or intensity that adversely affects the function or well-being of the patient.” Chronic pain has become an increasing problem in the United States and proves to be a great challenge in the management of perioperative patients. The purpose of this process improvement project was to gather data on our surgical patients and determine if chronic pain is a significant problem in our population.

**Description:** Questionnaires were developed in regards to patient pain and were completed by RNs in the pre/post-operative areas. Questions included type of surgery, gender, interference of pain with activities of daily living (ADLs), pain medication(s) used at home, and pre-operative pain score. After surgery, data was collected in regards to intra-operative pain medications given, post-operative pain scores, and satisfaction with pain management.

**Outcome:** Over a period of 4 weeks, 117 questionnaires were completed to assess for chronic pain. Of those surveyed, a significant number of patients reported daily use of narcotic pain medications, interference with ADLs, and pre-operative pain. Using this data, RNs and physicians will work together to target chronic pain patients and to better assess for and treat their pain in the perioperative environment.