

ACUTE PAIN MANAGEMENT

Team Leader: Nancy Michaelian, BSN, RN, CPAN

Pinnacle Health System, Harrisburg, PA

Team Member: Karen Marencic, RN

The *ASPAN Pain and Comfort Clinical Guideline* requires that we address patients' pain. During preoperative interviews, many patients expressed an expectation that there would be no pain following surgery. Our HCAHPS scores showed that patients did not feel that their pain was well controlled during their hospital stay. Our pain management process was not effective.

Perianesthesia, in collaboration with Anesthesia, IT for Surgical Services, a Pain Physician, and Nursing staff developed a pain management plan for surgical patients. Areas to be included in the care plan were the introduction of the pain scale, assessment of the current pain level and whether it was related or unrelated to the procedure to be performed, current methods of pain control and their effectiveness, and the patient's identified tolerable pain level during the immediate postoperative period.

As a result of our collaboration, we added a pain screen to the electronic documentation. The pain screen is completed for all patients and includes a pain history, a current pain assessment, and a place to document that the preoperative nurse has explained the pain management plan. This information automatically populates the Phase I, Phase II and hand off documentation so that the nurses can see what the patient has identified as a tolerable pain level.

Our HCAHPS scores have risen, and postoperative phone calls have indicated that our patients are more satisfied with the management of their postoperative pain.