

## **PAIN REASSESSMENT & DOCUMENTATION**

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**Background Information:** The Joint Commission standards guides nursing documentation of pain reassessment to enable staff to appropriately recognize and treat patient's post-surgical pain. A need was identified to increase nursing knowledge and compliance about pain reassessment documentation in the electronic health record (EHR).

**Objectives of Project:** The goal of this project was to increase compliance of the pain reassessment documentation after the administration of intravenous and oral pain medications to 90% or greater in the perioperative setting. The objectives were to develop a standardized tool that could be placed in the nurses' identification badges as a quick reference, complete an in-service to educate nursing staff on correct documentation in the EHR per institutional policy, and audit compliance rate reports on a weekly basis, identifying staff that require additional education.

**Process of Implementation:** Feedback from the leadership team and the institutional compliance reports were analyzed to assess areas for improvement. Seventy-five nurses were educated about the institution's current pain policy which focused on pain medication requiring reassessment, proper documentation of pain scores, pain characteristics, and reassessment times. Teaching methods included a power point presentation, small group huddles, and one-to-one direct communication. Badge inserts were created as a tool of reference for the nurse for pain reminders and reassessment times. Staff were also taught the importance of pain reassessment as it directly correlates to patient's pain satisfaction scores.

**Statement of Successful Practice:** Pre-implementation of the quality improvement project reflected a documentation compliance score of 76% from September 2016 to February 2017. Staff education was completed in March 2017. Post-implementation audits from April 2017 to August 2017 showed an increase of documentation compliance from 76% to 86%. In conjunction, of 159 reviewed patient satisfaction reports, all 159 patients felt their pain was controlled while in the perioperative area. To reach 90%, staff will receive monthly updates on compliance scores, with remediation given to those who fall below the standard.

**Implications for Advancing the Practice of Perianesthesia Nursing:** The completion of a proper nursing education plan and chart audits have shown an increase in nursing pain reassessment documentation in the EHR. By adhering to national and institutional guidelines for pain documentation, we can ensure patient's pain is addressed in a safe and timely manner.