Pain Management Policy, AW

SCOPE

The organizations wholly owned and/or managed by Ascension Wisconsin (AW).

PURPOSE/RATIONALE

The identification and management of pain is an important component of person centered care. Ascension Wisconsin (AW) respects the patient's right to have their pain managed. A holistic approach is essential to safe and effective pain management. It is premised on the respect for human dignity and the rights of individuals to determine, directly or indirectly through their surrogate, the course of treatment.

DEFINITIONS (applicable to policy and analgesic orders)

Mild pain: A self-reported pain score that is within the benchmark range of 1-3/10.
Moderate pain: A self-reported pain score that is within the benchmark range of 4-6/10.
Severe pain: A self-reported pain score that is within the benchmark range of 7-10/10.

POLICY

1. Goals of Pain Management
   a. AW supports the patient's right to the highest level of pain relief that can be realistically and safely provided.
   b. Pain is assessed and managed consistent with the patient's medical condition, scope of care, treatment and services. Additional pain concerns are referred appropriately.

2. Initial Screening
   a. Patients are screened for the presence or absence of pain during Emergency Department visits and at the time of admission.
   b. Patients seen in hospital-based ambulatory departments or within the medical group clinics will be screened for the presence or absence of pain at each visit as appropriate to reason for visit.
3. Assessment: Initial Assessment of Patients with Pain
   a. Initial assessment for patients with pain identified during screening includes a comprehensive pain assessment. This assessment takes into consideration:
      i. Pain assessment using organization approved pain scales appropriate for the patient's age, medical condition, and ability to understand. See appendix A.
      ii. Patient self-report of pain is the gold standard and the most reliable information about the patient's pain
      iii. Patient goals and expectations for pain relief
      iv. The patient's medical condition, scope of care, treatment and services
   b. The comprehensive pain assessment may include:
      i. Pain intensity by patient self-report whenever possible
      ii. Behavioral indicators or non-verbal signs of pain for patients not able to self-report using behavioral pain assessment tools appropriate to the patient's age and medical condition
      iii. Pain quality and characteristics (onset, location, description, intensity), aggravating and relieving factors, previous treatment and effectiveness.
      iv. Impact of pain on functional ability and quality of life including activity, mood, appetite, sleep, social relationships, leisure and pleasure activities, etc.
      v. Psychosocial assessment (such as coping responses to pain, attitudes towards the use of medications and other treatments, cultural or religious beliefs toward pain)
   c. Assessment information is used to develop a plan of care based on the patient's clinical condition and pain management goals.

4. Assessment: Ongoing
   a. Patients with pain will be assessed at minimum once per shift (0700-1500, 1500-2300, and 2300-0700).
   b. Sedation level / LOC is assessed prior to and after opioid administration for patients receiving opioids to manage pain.

5. Pain and the effectiveness of pain management interventions are reassessed and documented using assessment tools appropriate to the patient.
   a. Pain is reassessed at a suitable interval following pain interventions.
   b. For pharmacologic interventions, the timing of reassessment should consider: drug, route, and dose.
   c. For non-pharmacologic interventions, reassessment is ongoing and documented at minimum once per shift.

REFERENCES


**ATTACHMENT NAMES**

Appendix A: Pain Assessment Tools

**Attachments:**

No Attachments

**Approval Signatures**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approver</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<td>Peggy Lutz: RN Dir-Nursing</td>
<td>6/28/2019</td>
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**Applicability**

Affinity Health System, Affinity Medical Group, Ascension All Saints Hospital, Ascension Calumet Hospital, Ascension Eagle River Hospital, Ascension Good Samaritan Hospital, Ascension NE Wisconsin-Mercy Campus, Ascension NE Wisconsin–St. Elizabeth Campus, Ascension Our Lady of Victory Hospital, Ascension SE Wisconsin Hospital-Franklin Campus, Ascension SE Wisconsin Hsptl–Elmbrk/St Jspf Cmpus, Ascension Sacred Heart-St. Mary's Hospitals, Ascension St. Clare's Hospital, Ascension St. Francis Hospital, Ascension St. Michael's Hospital, Ascension Wisconsin, Columbia St. Mary's Hospital Milwaukee, Columbia St. Mary's Hospital Ozaaukie, Howard Young Medical Center, Midwest Orthopedic Specialty Hospital, Ministry Health Care, Ministry Medical Group, Ministry Spirit Medical Transportation, Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Institute, Saint Elizabeth's Medical Center, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare-Southeast Wisconsin, Wheaton Franciscan Medical Group