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Nursing Policy: P-5
LSUHSC-Shreveport, LA

PAIN DOCUMENTATION

PURPOSE:

To provide nursing staff with general guidelines for Pain Documentation.

POLICY:

1. Forms

The Pain Flowsheet (SN1294) or the Pain Problem/Priority section of the 24 Hour Nurses Notes/Unit Specific Flowsheet shall be used to document pain assessment/reassessment. When the patient is receiving PCA/Patient Controlled Analgesia, the PCA Flowsheet shall be used to document. See Nursing Policy P-15 policy for details:
http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/policies/policy_manuals_via_ms_word/Nursing/P-15.pdf
Specialty Units may use pain assessment information on the unit's specific form.

2. Requirements

Patients shall be assessed for pain every 4 hours with documentation on the Pain Flowsheet (SN 1294) or the Pain Problem/Priority section of the 24 Hour Nurses Notes/Unit Specific Flowsheet. Patients shall be reassessed within 2 hours of receiving pain medication/pain interventions with documentation of reassessment. For the ICU patient that is intubated and sedated the Critical Care Policy: Continuous Narcotic and Sedative Usage in the ICU shall be followed. **The Psychiatric Unit will follow their Unit Specific Policy.**

Additionally, the Pain Quality Council practice recommendations will be followed as appropriate (e.g. use of a white board as a memo of last dose/next dose, etc.).

**Exception: Specialty units may use unit-specific forms to document.
The PCA Flowsheet is used for epidurals, PCA or continuous infusions.**

Note: The Ambulatory Care Division shall follow Hospital Policy 5.34: Pain Management and use the Pain Flowsheet (SN 1294) as needed.

http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/policies/policy_manuals_via_ms_word/hospital_policy/h_5.34.0.pdf

3. Pain Assessments and Vital Signs

- A. The patient is assessed at least every 4 hours for pain status. The medication/intervention effectiveness is documented within 2 hours.
- B. Additional vital sign information may also be assessed and documented at this time.

4. Untreated Pain

If the patient is in pain and not being treated, the nurse shall ensure the physician is notified and notification documented.

References:

Hospital Policy 5.34.0: Pain Management

http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/policies/policy_manuals_via_ms_word/hospital_policy/h_5.34.0.pdf

Nursing Policy N-54 Nursing Quality Councils

http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/policies/policy_manuals_via_ms_word/Nursing/N-54.pdf

Nursing Policy P-15 PCA/Patient Controlled Analgesia

http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/policies/policy_manuals_via_ms_word/Nursing/P-15.pdf

Continuous Narcotic and Sedative Usage in the ICU

http://www.sh.lsuhs.edu/policies/policy_manuals_via_ms_word/Nursing/Critical%20Care%20Policies/continuous%20narcotic%20sedative%20policy.pdf

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