

# Pain Huddle Points 10-29-12

- The Joint Commission released a Sentinel Event Alert regarding Safe Use of Opioids in Hospital in Aug 2012
- Characteristics of patients who are at higher risk for oversedation and respiratory depression:
  - Sleep apnea or sleep disorder
  - Morbid obesity with high risk of sleep apnea
  - Snoring
  - Older age: risk is 2.8 times higher for individuals aged 61-70; 5.4 times higher for age 71-80; 8.7 times higher for those over the age of 80
  - No recent opioid use
  - Post surgery particularly if upper abdominal or thoracic surgery
  - Increased opioid dose requirement or opioid habituation
  - Longer length of time receiving general anesthesia during surgery
  - Receiving other sedating drugs such as benzodiazepines, sedatives or other CNS depressants
  - Preexisting pulmonary or cardiac disease or dysfunction or major organ failure
  - Thoracic or other surgical incisions that may impair breathing
  - Smoker

Reference: The Joint Commission, Issue 49, Aug 8, 2012 at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org)

**Created by PRN Team, KP-Los Angeles Medical Center**