

Pain Huddle Points 12-3-12

- The **CA Board of Registered Nursing's Pain Management Policy** states: *The nursing function of appropriate pain management includes, but is not limited to:*
 - Ensuring informed consent for pain management.
 - **Assessing pain and evaluating response to pain management interventions using a standard pain management scale based on patient self-report.**
 - Educating staff, patients, and families regarding the difference between tolerance, physical dependence, and addiction in relation to pain relieving medications, and the low risk of addiction from long-term use and/or high doses of opiates for pain relief.
 - **Educating patients and families in a culturally competent manner** regarding appropriate expectations for pain management.
 - **Recognizing that PRN medications may be given around-the-clock.**
 - **Intervening to treat pain before the pain becomes severe.**
 - Using non-drug interventions to assist in pain alleviation.
 - Using knowledge of equianalgesic dosages to maintain both patient safety and pain relief as routes and types of ordered drugs change.
 - Documenting pain assessment, intervention, and evaluation activities in a clear and concise manner.
 - Intervening to minimize drug side effects.
 - Implementing quality assurance/improvement standards to monitor the pain management program.