

Pain Huddle Points 1-3-13

- The **CA Board of Registered Nursing's Policy statement on Pain Assessment: The Fifth Vital Sign** reads:

“RNs should remember that *prn* means in the nurse's judgment. In regards to pain medications that are ordered *prn*, RNs can choose to give the medication routinely, around-the-clock. In many acute pain situations, such as post-operative or post-trauma, medications ordered **q4h prn** (every four hours as needed), for example, should be given (or at least offered) q4h (every four hours) **routinely** for the first 24-48 hours to keep ahead of the patient's pain.”

“Research shows that when patient's acute pain is managed around the clock and the pain level is kept from becoming severe, the total amount of opioid needed is reduced.

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