



Pain Resource Nurse Role: Description and Responsibilities

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for Pain Resource Nurses (PRNs), Managers and staff in utilizing the role of "Pain Resource Nurse"

POLICY:

I. Definition of a Pain Resource Nurse (PRN):

A Pain Resource Nurse is a registered nurse who functions as both a resource and change agent in disseminating information, interfacing with nurses, physicians, other health care providers, and patients and families to facilitate quality pain management. A PRN must have completed a 3-day training in the City of Hope Hospital.

II. Criteria for PRNs:

- A. Minimum of one year of nursing experience at Kaiser Permanente – LAMC.
- B. Expresses interest and commitment in pain management.
- C. Demonstrates interest and commitment in sharing knowledge with staff and peers through role modeling and teaching.
- D. Demonstrates effective interpersonal skills, specifically the ability to collaborate with others.
- E. Demonstrates commitment to own professional development through attendance at professional organization conferences.
- F. Demonstrates knowledge and expertise in providing nursing care, problem solving, and implementing standards.
- G. Demonstrates effective communication skills in written and verbal forms, as evidenced by: Nurse Knowledge Exchange Plus, documentation, patient teaching.

II. Responsibilities of the PRN:

- A. Assesses personal knowledge and attitudes as they relate to pain management.
- B. Regular attendance at the "PRN" monthly meetings.
- C. Acts as a role model for other staff and peers by communicating pain issues during huddles and rounds. This includes teaching patients and families about pain management.
- D. Performs informal needs assessment of clinical unit including a review of staff knowledge and attitudes about pain and general pain management practices. Presents findings and recommendations to target areas for improvement.

- E. Disseminates information about pain management through a variety of ways including coordination of unit inservices, journal article reviews, newsletters and dissemination of pain management clinical practice guidelines.
- F. Assists staff in calculating opioid dose and route equianalgesic calculations as necessary.
- G. Collaborates with Department Administrators (DA)s and Pain Champions on pain quality improvement projects.
- H. Develops management patient education materials and updates policies and procedures specific to pain management.
- I. Collaborates with other DAs and other resource people as necessary to evaluate progress of PI activities and to address barriers and variances.
- J. Models collaboration with physicians and other health care providers to improve pain management.

IV. Responsibilities of the Department Administrator:

- A. Supervises the Pain Resource Nurses as applicable.
- B. Provides support for the PRNs to attend meetings and strengthening their role.
- C. Gives feedback in the performance evaluation of the PRNs as appropriate.

V. Preparation of the Pain Resource Nurse:

- A. Attendance at three day "PRN" training program in the City of Hope Hospital, Duarte, California.

VI. Recognition of the Pain Resource Nurse:

- A. The Pain Resource Nurse wears a name tag or pin identifying PRN status.
- B. The Pain Resource Nurse receives a certificate of recognition upon completion of the training.
- C. Recognition at *LAMC Insider* highlighting outcomes.