



Unit Pain Champion Role: Description and Responsibilities

PURPOSE:

To provide a common understanding and guidelines for Pain Resource Nurses, Managers, and staff in utilizing the role of "Pain Champion"

POLICY:

I. Definition of a Unit Pain Champion:

A Pain Champion is a registered nurse who functions as both a resource and change agent in disseminating information, interfacing with Pain Resource Nurses, peers, physicians, other health care providers, and patients and families to facilitate quality pain management. A Pain Champion must have completed an 8-hour training on Pain Management.

II. Criteria for Selection:

- A. Minimum of one year of nursing experience at Kaiser Permanente – LAMC.
- B. Expresses interest and commitment in pain management improvement projects.
- C. Demonstrates interest 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 pain management workshops and meetings as appropriate.
- F. Demonstrates knowledge and expertise in providing nursing care, problem solving, and implementing pain standards.
- G. Demonstrates effective communication skills in written and verbal forms, as evidenced by: Nurse Knowledge Exchange Plus, documentation, patient teaching.

III. Responsibilities of the Unit Pain Champion:

- A. Assesses personal knowledge and attitudes as they relate to pain management.
- B. Acts a role model for other staff and peers by performing thorough pain assessments, documenting pain assessments, interventions and outcomes, communicating pain issues in report and rounds, and teaching patients and families about pain management.
- C. Distributes pain management information materials i.e. pain huddle points, pain control newsletter and obtain staff signatures.
- D. Assists staff in calculating opioid dose and route equianalgesic calculations as necessary.

- E. Develops and implements at least two unit-based quality improvement goals and processes for pain management.
- F. Performs daily nurse leadership rounding which includes care board, patient interview on pain composites, documentation on pain assessment, reassessment, plan of care and patient education plan.
- G. Provides feedback to peers regarding pain management practices.

IV. Responsibilities of the Department Administrator:

- A. Supervises the Pain Champions.
- B. Provides support for the Pain Champions to attend meetings and strengthening the role.
- C. Completes the performance evaluation of the Pain Champions.

V. Preparation of the Pain Champion:

- A. Attendance at an 8-hour Pain Management Workshop for Pain Champions at LAMC.

VI. Recognition of the Pain Champion Nurse:

- A. The Pain Champion receives a pain champion pin or button to designate the role.