

# CHECKLIST

## Pain Management



Pain management is a complex and evolving issue for healthcare organizations and providers. Sometimes described as the “fifth vital sign,” pain affects millions of Americans. Yet, unlike other vital signs, pain cannot be quantitatively measured, and it is often undertreated or not treated at all.

Proper pain management largely depends on consistent, accurate pain assessments; qualified, competent, and properly credentialed staff; medication safety measures; and patient education about pain management and the risks of pain. Use the following checklist to evaluate your organization’s risk in relation to pain management.

	Yes	No
Has your organization conducted a facility-wide assessment of its approach to pain management?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization have a pain management committee?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization take a multidisciplinary, team-based approach to pain management?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization have written policies and procedures regarding pain management?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Do pain management policies and procedures adhere to federal and state drug monitoring regulations specific to pain management and controlled substances?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization have written protocols for acute and chronic pain management?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are physicians and multidisciplinary staff members who specialize in pain management credentialed for specific pain management techniques and treatments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are physicians and multidisciplinary staff members who are involved in procedural sedation given in conjunction with interventional pain management certified in advanced cardiovascular life support?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are patient complaints about pain management monitored, trended, and reviewed for improvement opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

	Yes	No
Do adverse or unexpected outcomes related to pain management, medication, and treatment trigger peer review? Are incidents and claims analyzed for risk factors related to pain management?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does staff receive comprehensive pain management education regardless of the area in which they work?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your organization have an up-to-date procedural sedation policy?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are reversal agents and crash carts immediately available during interventional pain management procedures?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are patients assessed for indications of obstructive sleep apnea prior to sedation or use of opioid analgesics? Are the results of that assessment consistently documented in the health record?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Are all patients receiving interventional pain management treatment or procedures on an outpatient basis given written discharge instructions at a reading level that they can comprehend?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

This document should not be construed as medical or legal advice. Because the facts applicable to your situation may vary, or the laws applicable in your jurisdiction may differ, please contact your attorney or other professional advisors if you have any questions related to your legal or medical obligations or rights, state or federal laws, contract interpretation, or other legal questions.

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