

ASSESSING PAIN IN NURSING HOME RESIDENTS



Learning Objectives:


Using knowledge about assessing pain in older adults, the student will be able to:

1. Use and evaluate evidence-based pain assessments for nursing home residents/patients experiencing chronic pain.
2. Apply the recommendations for pain assessment in cognitively intact and cognitively impaired nursing home residents/patients.
3. Identify sources and causes of persistent pain in the nursing home resident/patient.

Student Preparation:

1. Go to www.GeriaticPain.org and click on pain assessment. Review everything on that webpage.

Student Activities:

1. Conduct a pain assessment on a resident/patient that is cognitively intact utilizing an appropriate evidence-based pain assessment tool that you reviewed on www.geriatricpain.org.
 - a. Compare your findings to pain assessment findings in the resident's/patient's health record.
 - b. Present your findings to the nurse responsible for the care of the resident/patient.
 2. Conduct a pain assessment on a resident/patient that is cognitively impaired utilizing an appropriate evidence-based pain assessment tool that you reviewed on www.geriatricpain.org.
 - a. Compare your findings to pain assessment findings in the resident's/patient's health record.
 - b. Present your findings to the nurse responsible for the care of the resident/patient.
 3. Look at an MDS assessment, section J (pain). Evaluate if the MDS assessment section for pain is consistent with the recommended assessment guidelines and information you reviewed on www.geriatricpain.org.
 4. Review the nursing home's policy and procedures on the assessment of pain for nursing home residents/patients. Evaluate its congruency with recommended pain assessment guidelines. Propose recommendations you would make to the registered nurses employed in the nursing home regarding changes to their policies and procedures, if appropriate.
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<http://www.nursing.umn.edu/Hartford/ClinicalTeachinginNursingHomes/ClinicalTeachingResources/index.htm>