

PEDIATRIC PAIN MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET

Overview

[The concept of managing acute and chronic pain in children, and adolescents has been debated in the healthcare community for decades. While there is now recognition that young people feel pain the way adults do and agreement that an unmet medical need exists, there remains an inconsistent treatment gap and few FDA-approved options for minimizing distress and managing pain in pediatric patients.]¹

General Information and Statistics

- ✓ [Among hospitalized pediatric patients, the prevalence of clinically significant pain may be as high as 60 percent.]²
- ✓ [Children may develop long-standing alterations in their responses and perceptions of painful experiences.]³
- ✓ [Sixty percent of surveyed institutions claim to have implemented pediatric pain control protocols. However, only 15 percent of these institutions follow pain control standards 80 percent of the time.]³
- ✓ [Pain in children is systematically under treated - 69 percent of hospitalized pediatric patients for whom analgesics had been ordered did not receive a single dose.]⁴

Current Guidelines and Standards of Care

- ✓ [In a 2001 joint statement, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American Pain Society (APS) established guidelines for improved assessment and management of children's pain.]¹
- ✓ [That same year, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) recognized pain as "the fifth vital sign" and established standards requiring the assessment of pain in all patients.]⁵
- ✓ [The Infusion Nurses Society (INS) emphasizes that clinical competencies should include proper procedural pain management, and pain protocols should "encourage" the use of topical anesthetics prior to painful dermal procedures in children.]⁶

The Impact on Healthcare

[The impact of untreated pain over time can lead to conditioned anxiety response, fear of physicians, and heightened perception of pain. In addition, healthcare professionals and caregivers often experience stress associated with unmanaged pain in children. There is a clear need for improved therapies to treat pain in the pediatric patient population and alleviate the toll of untreated pain on behalf of the patient, caregiver and healthcare system.]¹

¹ American Academy of Pediatrics and American Pain Society. *Pediatrics*. 2001;108:793-797.

² Walker PC, Wagner DS. *Journal of Pharmacy Practice*. 2003;16:261-275.

³ Weisman SJ, et al. *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*. 1998;152:147-149.

⁴ Ellis JA, et al. *The Clinical Journal of Pain*. 2002;18:262-269.

⁵ Phillips DM. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 2000;284:428-429.

⁶ Infusion Nurses Society. *Journal of Infusion Nursing*. 2006;29(suppl 1):S15-S16,S41.