

Pain Resource Nurse Role: Description and Responsibilities

University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics

PURPOSE:

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

POLICY:

I. Definition of a Pain Resource Nurse:

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.

II. Criteria for Selection:

- A. Minimum of one year of nursing experience at UWHC (NC2)
- B. Demonstrates interest in sharing knowledge with staff through role modeling and teaching
- C. Demonstrates effective interpersonal skills, specifically the ability to collaborate with others
- D. Demonstrates commitment to own professional development through attendance at "PRN" and Pain-Patient Care Team monthly meetings.
- E. Expresses interest in pain management
- 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:
 - shift report
 - documentation
 - patient teaching

III. Responsibilities of the Pain Resource Nurse:

- A. Assesses personal knowledge and attitudes as they relate to pain management
- B. Regular attendance at the "PRN" and/or Pain-Patient Care team monthly meetings
- C. Acts a role model for other staff 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
- D. Performs informal needs assessment of clinical unit or clinic practice setting including a review of staff knowledge and attitudes about pain, general pain management practices and documentation to target areas for improvement

- E. Disseminates information about pain management through a variety of ways including coordination of unit inservices, journal article reviews, and dissemination of AHCPR clinical guidelines
- F. Assists staff in calculating opioid dose and route equianalgesic calculations as necessary
- G. Facilitates pain quality assurance studies
- H. Identifies the need and assists in the development of pain management patient education materials and updated policies and procedures
- I. Collaborates with the Nurse Manager, Pain Care Team Chair, and other resource people as necessary to evaluate progress and to address any training issues
- J. Provides feedback to staff regarding pain management practices

IV. Preparation of the Pain Resource Nurse:

- A. Attendance at three day "PRN" training program
- B. The "PRN" program is facilitated by the Chair of the Pain Patient Care Team

V. Responsibilities of Pain-Care Team Chair:

- A. Coordinates and facilitates the classroom orientation content
- B. Collaborates with Nurse Manager and PRN in ongoing role development
- C. Coordinates monthly support and continuing education meetings
- D. Act as a resource for problem solving pain management issues
- E. Develops and implements abilities based competency evaluation of PRNs

VI. Responsibilities of the Nurse Manager:

- A. Supervises the Pain Resource Nurse
- B. Collaborates with the PRN and Pain-Care Team chair to develop plan to implement and evaluate the PRN role
- C. Provides support for the PRN to attend monthly meetings and operationalizing the role
- D. Participates in the evaluation of the PRN

VII. Recognition of the Pain Resource Nurse:

- A. The Pain Resource Nurse wears a name tag identifying PRN status
- B. The PRN becomes a member of the Pain-Patient Care Team