Pain Management in Older Adults

Are Your Nurses Checking All the Boxes?

Like what you saw?

Post-Procedure Steps

- Monitor the patient for adverse reactions to medications, including central nervous system (CNS) depression and allergic reaction
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- Reassess the patient’s level of pain frequently and adjust the pain management plan
- Perform hand hygiene

Dynamic Health, an innovative new evidence-based tool, offers thousands of actionable evidence-based information on core nursing competencies, transcultural care, patient training, occupational therapy, speech therapy, nutrition and dietetics, social work and so much more.

Clinical skills and accompanying competency checklists to help nurses and allied health professionals master critical skills. Users will find current, relevant, comprehensive, and innovative new evidence-based tool, offers thousands of actionable evidence-based information on core nursing competencies, transcultural care, patient training, occupational therapy, speech therapy, nutrition and dietetics, social work and so much more.

There are lots more where this came from.

PROCEDURE STEPS

1. Review the manufacturer's instructions for all supplies to be used, and verify that they are in good working order
2. Review the facility/unit-specific protocol for managing pain in older adults
3. Review the patient's medical history/medical record
4. Review the treating clinician's orders, noting orders for pharmacologic agents
5. Check the orders and care plan
6. Verify completion of facility informed consent documents, if necessary
7. Review the facility/unit-specific protocol for managing pain in older adults
8. Collaborate with members of the multidisciplinary team to identify other possible causes of pain behaviors that persist despite medication increase
9. Use a facility-approved pain assessment tool to monitor treatment efficacy
10. Verify that the drug has not expired
11. Administer the prescribed analgesic (typically non-opioid analgesics for pain that is mild to moderate in intensity and opioid analgesics for pain that is severe), if appropriate
12. Monitor for verbal and/or nonverbal indicators that pharmacologic therapy is effective
13. Adhere to prophylactic analgesic administration schedule, as prescribed
14. Recruit other staff members to assist as necessary
15. Assess general health status, including pain level and provide prescribed analgesic, if necessary, before proceeding
16. Equipment (PPE), as appropriate
17. Perform hand hygiene according to facility protocol, and don personal protective equipment (PPE), as appropriate
18. Explain the procedure
19. Introduce yourself
20. Identify the patient
21. Provide privacy for the patient
22. Maintain level of infection precautions, as appropriate
23. Are Your Nurses Checking All the Boxes?

Post-Procedure Steps

- Monitor the patient for medication toxicity by following prescribed orders for laboratory testing of blood. Review test results and consult the treating clinician if drug levels reveal toxicity.
- In some cases, excessive sedation may be a problem, particularly in the elderly. Monitor for medication toxicity by following prescribed orders for laboratory testing of blood. Review test results and consult the treating clinician if drug levels reveal toxicity.
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