

Fast Facts on Pain Management



FAST FACTS #6- Nurse-Physician Communication

Patient Example:

Mr. M.C. is a 65 year old patient of Dr. Jones with advanced prostate cancer and metastasis to the bone. He has been rating his pain between 4 and 6 over the past few hours, in his lower back. The pain is preventing him from getting out of bed and he has not been able to sleep. It seems to be relieved only by lying still. MC would like his pain level to be at 3 or less on a 0 to 10 scale so that he can sleep through the night and get out of bed to walk around. He is taking MS Contin 100mg q 12h with breakthrough dose of MS IR 30mg q2h which he has needed 4 times today. Other adjuvant medication is Vioxx 50mg QD and gabapentin 300mg tid.

The following communication steps are helpful in communicating with the physician:

1. Identify physician by name.
2. Give your name.
3. State the general nature of the call.
4. Identify the patient by name and diagnosis.
5. State the pain management goal: pain rating and activities.
6. Summarize the current pain ratings and effect of pain on activities.
7. Summarize the current pain ratings and effect of pain on activities.
8. List the current analgesic doses and relevant side effects.
9. Suggest a solution (on the basis of a clinical practice guideline, if possible).

See attached FAX sample to prepare for your call. Adapted from McCaffery M, Pasero C, Pain: Clinical manual, p. 92. 1999, Mosby, Inc.

Main Teaching Points

1. **Hello, Dr. Jones.**
2. **This is Cindy Adams.**
3. **I am calling regarding a pain management problem**
4. **With your patient, Martin, who has prostate cancer with metastasis.**
5. **The pain management goal for Martin is to keep his pain rating at 3 or less on a scale of 0 to 10 so he can sleep through the night and get out of bed to walk around his home.**
6. **His pain ratings over the past several hours have been 4 to 6, and he has been unable to sleep or get out of bed.**
7. **His current dose of MS Contin is 100 mg q12h with a supplemental dose of MS IR 30 mg q12h. He has had to take 4 supplemental doses since midnight. He remains very alert but in pain. He also takes Vioxx 50mg QD and gabapentin 300mg tid.**
8. **The cancer pain guideline says that opioid doses that are safe but ineffective may be titrated up by 25% to 50% to produce moderate pain relief. What do you think about increasing Martin's morphine doses by 50%?**
9. **That would mean 150 mg MS Contin q12h and 45 mg MSIR**

Over for Nurse Worksheet for Phone Call Interventions

