Safely Caring for Patients Experiencing Pain

Pasero Opioid-Induced Sedation Scale (POSS)

What is the role of the nurse?

Assess POSS prior to administering opioids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POSS</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S</td>
<td>Sleep, easy to arouse - May safely administer opioid dose if needed</td>
<td>Give the opioid medication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Awake and alert - May safely administer opioid dose if needed</td>
<td>Sign Documentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Slightly drowsy, easily aroused - May safely administer opioid dose if needed</td>
<td>Reassess pain within 1 hour (POSS Response box will require a pain score, POSS level, and functional ability reassessment)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Often drowsy, arousable, drifts to sleep in conversation - DO NOT GIVE OPIOID;</td>
<td>Hold the opioid medication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Somnolent, min/no response to verbal &amp; physical stimuli - DO NOT GIVE OPIOID;</td>
<td>Chart POSS level in flowsheet or eMAR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
<td>End of Life; Intubated; Phase I Recovery</td>
<td>Follow Communication Orders for POSS level.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSS S, 1, or 2
- Give the opioid medication
- Sign Documentation
- Reassess pain within 1 hour (POSS Response box will require a pain score, POSS level, and functional ability reassessment)

POSS 3 or 4
- Hold the opioid medication
- Chart POSS level in flowsheet or eMAR.
- Follow Communication Orders for POSS level.

POSS 3
1. Notify Physician of concern for opioid-related sedation
2. Monitor POSS level and respiration rate: q15min x2, then q30 min x3. (Document in flowsheet)
3. If POSS does not improve after 2 hours notify physician.

POSS 4
1. Call RRT/Physician of concern for opioid-related sedation and potential need for reversal with naloxone.
2. Remain at bedside until POSS less than 4.
3. Monitor POSS level and respiratory rate: q15 min x2, then q30 min x3. (Document in flowsheet)
4. If POSS does not improve after 2 hours notify physician.