Pain Medication Algorithm

Mild Pain
Score 0-3
- Non-opioids
  - Acetaminophen (IV/PO)
  - NSAIDS including Aspirin & Ketorolac

Moderate Pain
Score 4-6
- Weak Opioid ± Non-opioid
  - Oral
  - Injection
    - Weak opioids (Most-to-least potent)
      - Hydrocodone 10mg
      - Hydrocodone 7.5mg
      - Hydrocodone 5mg
      - Codeine/APAP 60/325
      - Codeine 30mg
      - Meperidine 50mg
      - Tramadol 50mg
      - Tramadol/APAP 37.5mg
      - Pentazocine
    - Weak opioids, (Most-to-least Potent)
      - Nalbuphine inj

Severe Pain
Score 7-10
- Strong opioid ± Non-opioid
  - Oral
  - Injection
    - Strong opioids (Most-to-least Potent)
      - Fentanyl 400mcg
      - Hydromorphone
      - Methadone 10mg
      - Oxycodone
      - Morphine, morphine liq

If both IV and PO pain medications are ordered for the same pain level and oral route is available, use oral route first; then use IV medication for breakthrough pain.
Pain Management Initiative
Increase patient satisfaction and patient safety with effective pain management enhanced by additional guidelines adopted by the Medical staff, Nursing and Pharmacy

Revision to our Policy

Nursing will use pain algorithm in policy to determine appropriate pain medication based on assessment

Oral pain medication is first choice versus IV route unless patient’s condition or medical staff deems otherwise

Pharmacy will help maintain a more clear and concise medication profile by monitoring duplicate orders

Avoid ordering duplicate pain medications unless it is clear and concise for pain level parameters

Encourage use of CPOM enterprise order sets with corresponding pain parameters from pain algorithm