

Effect of a Neurocritical Care Pain Management Guidance Document on Nursing Satisfaction with Pain Management in a Neurocritical Intensive Care Unit

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Background

Adequate pain control in neurocritical patients is complicated by the lack of practice guidelines and the limited ability of nurses to provide pain management recommendations to prescribers. Although within their scope of practice, most nurses do not offer suggestions due to a lack of clinical resources.

Within the Neuro Critical Care Unit (NCCU) at University of Utah Health, nurses have limited pain management resources. The purpose of this quality improvement project is to improve nurse satisfaction with pain management within NCCU through the development and implementation of a neurocritical pain management guidance document.

Objectives

- Assess the change in NCCU nurse satisfaction with pain management in neurocritical patients after implementation of a pain management guidance document
- Assess the change in quality of pain control in nonverbal neurocritical patients after implementation of a pain management guidance document

Study Population

Survey Participants

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurses involved in direct patient care within NCCU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing students • No shift in the NCCU during implementation phase • No experience assessing pain with the Simplified Pain Assessment (SPA) or the Nonverbal Pain Scale (NVPS)

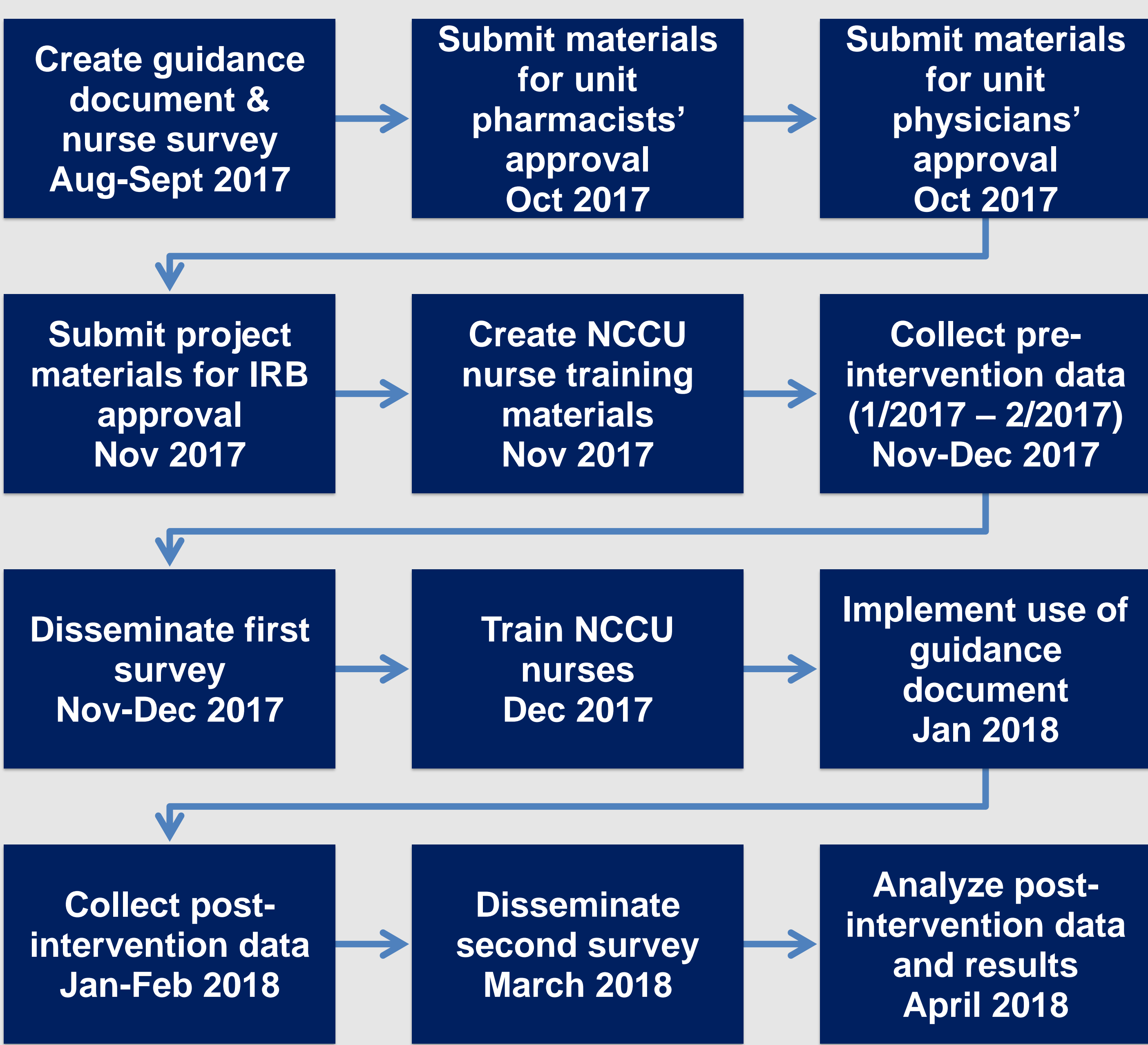
Patients

Inclusion Criteria	Exclusion Criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCCU stay ≥ 24 hours • ≥ 2 pain scores documented for either the SPA or the NVPS • ≥ 18 years of age 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCCU stay < 24 hours • Pain was managed by Acute Pain Service • Pain was not assessed using the SPA or the NVPS

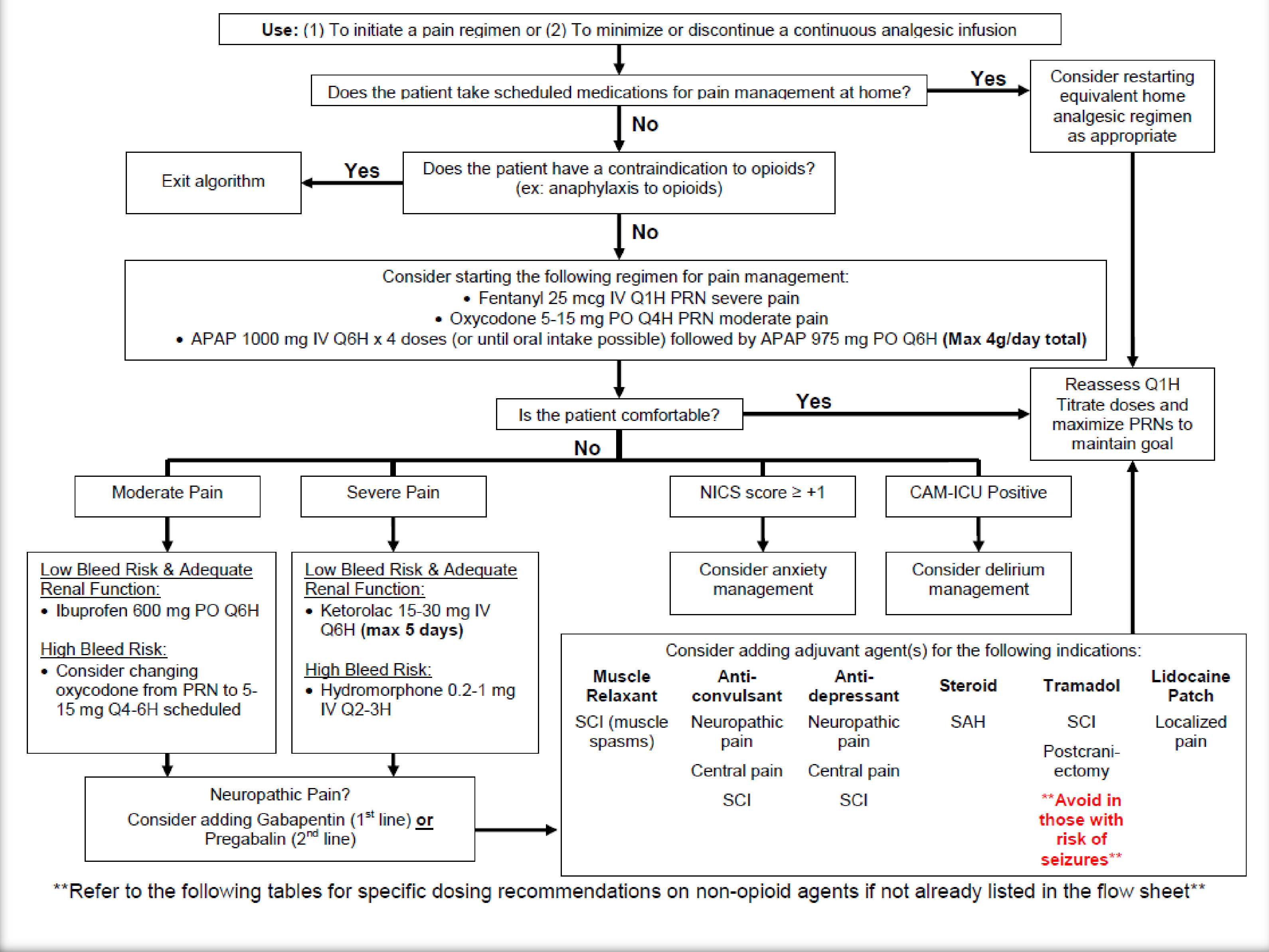
Endpoints

Nurse Satisfaction	Quality of Pain Control
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured via online survey with a 5-point Likert scale • Questions will assess: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confidence in pain assessment skills ○ Communication skills ○ Awareness and use of pain management resources ○ Perceived effectiveness of pain management in the unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measured via charted pain scores using the Simplified Pain Assessment (SPA) & Nonverbal Pain Scale (NVPS) • Pain score analysis will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mean pain score ○ Maximum pain score ○ % time in moderate to severe pain

Project Timeline



Pain Management Guidance Document



Expected Outcomes

- Increased nurse satisfaction with pain management within NCCU
- Improved pain control in neurocritical patients in the NCCU

References

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Disclosures

- All authors have no relevant conflicts of interest to report
- This study has received IRB exemption

