



**Service Priorities and Programmes**  
**Electronic Presentations**

**Convention ID:** 632

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**Pain assessment is an essential nursing observation**

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**Keywords:**

pain assessment

pain management

nursing observation

**Introduction**

Pain is an unpleasant feeling and motivates the individual to withdraw the activities. Well control of pain can help the patient maintain normal function and cope with their daily activities. Pain is the fifth vital sign and an objective sensation. Hence, nurses need to be trained and expected to assess pain, and then provide the appropriate pain control strategies to help patients maintain the pain under acceptance level. 90% nurses in our unit agree pain assessment is an essential observation by nurses and need to perform in daily at least if pain present.

**Objectives**

To establish the pain assessment tool and promote the pain assessment to nurses.

**Methodology**

Select the pain assessment scale After collected the ward nurses opinion, we decided to use "verbal rating scale" to perform pain assessment in our unit. Pain assessment record Designed the "Pain assessment record" to guide the nurses perform the pain assessment. The assessment items including pain scale, nature of pain and related treatment provided. Training sessions to ward nurses All nurses attended the training session that was provided by an Advanced Practice Nurse who received well training in pain control and has many years working experience in pain control. The pain assessment scale, pain assessment technique and the chatting method are well informed. Pain management audit Conduct the "Pain management audit" based on Hospital Authority nursing standard number M3.1 to evaluate the nursing quality performance.

**Result**

The pain assessment has established in our unit since June 2013. The nurses performed the pain assessment once on patient admission and twice per day if pain present at which nurses take the appropriated action. The pain management audit conducted in December 2013. The audit result showed that 6 standard criteria reached 100% compliance rate. The overall compliance rate of our unit is 98.6%, a bit higher than the department overall compliance rate (97.2%).