

## **Module 2 Pain Management**

### **Module Overview**

This module reviews basic principles of pain assessment and management with a focus on pain at the end of life.

### **Key Messages**

- Comprehensive pain assessment is essential to adequate pain relief.
- There are many barriers impeding pain assessment and treatment.
- The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is dedicated to improving pain management.
- Nurses should work collaboratively with the veteran, their family and interdisciplinary colleagues toward optimum use of drug and non-drug interventions.
- Treatment of pain at the end of life also includes attention to suffering.

### **Objectives**

At the completion of this module, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify barriers to adequate pain relief for patients receiving palliative care.
2. Describe the VHA programs that are dedicated to improving pain.
3. List the components of a thorough pain assessment.
4. Describe pharmacological and nonpharmacological therapies used to relieve pain.
5. Discuss the role of the nurse involved with pain assessment and management in palliative care and at the end of life.