

Module 2

Pain Management

Module Overview

This module reviews basic principles of pain assessment and management with a focus on pain in serious illness.

Key Messages

- Comprehensive pain assessment is essential to adequate pain relief.
- There are many barriers impeding pain assessment and treatment.
- Nurses should work collaboratively with the Veteran, their family and interprofessional colleagues toward optimum use of drug and non-drug interventions.
- Treatment of pain in serious illness also includes attention to preventing and relieving suffering.

Objectives

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

1. Identify barriers to adequate pain relief in serious illness for Veterans across the life span.
2. List components of a thorough pain assessment.
3. Describe pharmacological and nonpharmacological therapies used to relieve pain.
4. Discuss the role of the nurse involved with pain assessment and management in serious illness.