



Pain Medication Safety Implementation Guide

District of Columbia hospitals are committed to providing effective treatment for pain that reduces the risks of overprescribing without increasing risks of addiction. All hospitals in the District endorsed a standardized set of pain medication safety recommendations for patients and providers.

These recommendations were developed for use in Emergency Departments in the District and may be used in other settings as desired.

Recommendations should be provided to patients prior to discharge. Develop a policy and procedure to incorporate the process during the time that best fits the treatment workflow at the organization. Educate health care providers across the relevant disciplines as your organization uses the provider handout prior to implementation of the recommendations with patients and at least annually.

The health care provider may provide the handout to the patient or refer to a visible poster with a brief statement. (e.g., “Safe pain relief is important. We are providing this information to all patients about the recommendations all Emergency Departments in DC follow to ensure safe pain management.”) and during the relevant point in the treatment workflow to facilitate discussion during treatment.

**Recommendations are available in handout in English and Spanish.
Provider handouts may be printed on 8.5 X 11 paper; color is recommended.
Patient handouts may be printed on 8.5 X 11 paper; color is recommended.
Double-sided printing with English on one side and Spanish on the other.**

To request the artwork to produce your own posters, contact eabrams@dcha.org.

The District of Columbia Hospital Association is a unifying force working to advance hospitals and health systems in the District of Columbia by promoting policies and initiatives that strengthen our system of care, preserve access and promote better health outcomes for the patients and communities they serve.

