



- have a slower onset of action so plan accordingly
3. Pain severity scores should be recorded before and after analgesic medication administration and upon arrival at destination
 4. Patients with acute abdominal pain should receive analgesic interventions – Use of analgesics for acute abdominal pain does not mask clinical findings or delay diagnosis
 5. Opiates may cause a rise in intracranial pressure

Pertinent Assessment Findings

1. Mental status (Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) and pain level)
2. Respiratory system (tidal volume, chest rigidity)
3. Gastrointestinal (assess for tenderness, rebound, guarding, and nausea)

Quality Improvement

Associated NEMSIS Protocol(s) (eProtocol.01) (for additional information, go to www.nemsis.org)

- 9914071 – General - Pain Control

Key Documentation Elements

- Documentation of patient vital signs (pulse, blood pressure, respiratory rate, neurologic status assessment) with pulse oximetry
- Acquisition of patient's allergies prior to administration of medication
- Documentation of initial patient pain scale assessment
- Documentation of medication administration with correct dose
- Documentation of patient reassessment with repeat vital signs and patient pain scale assessment

Performance Measures

- The clinical efficacy of prehospital analgesia in terms of adequacy of dosing parameters
- **National EMS Quality Alliance (NEMSQA) Performance Measures** (for additional information, see www.nemsqa.org)
 - *Pediatrics—03: Documentation of Estimated Weight in Kilograms*
 - *Trauma—01: Pain Assessment of Injured Patients*