Pain Assessment/Management Decision Tree

Screen for Pain on Admission

Is Pain Present?

- **YES**
  - Assess key aspects of the pain as possible, at least:
    - Location
    - Intensity on an age-appropriate scale
    - Modifiers (what makes it better/worse)
  - See guidelines for pain assessment for details

- **NO**
  - Educate patient/SO about need to report pain
  - Continue to screen for pain at regular intervals
  - Assess pain during/after procedures

Is pain intensity > midpoint on pain scale?

- **YES**
  - Further assess for treatable causes
  - Check order for available treatments
  - Discuss treatment options w/patient
  - Offer strongest treatment available that is safe & accepted by patient
  - Offer additional non-drug treatments
  - Evaluate effect of treatments at peak effect time for analgesia and side effect (e.g. 15 minutes IV, 1 hr PO)

- **NO**
  - Offer weak analgesic if ordered or dose on lower end of range
  - Offer non-drug measures
  - Evaluate effect of treatment

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