

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Pain Management: GUIDELINES ON PAIN AND AGING INTRODUCED

An **American Geriatrics Society** panel presented new guidelines for treating pain in aging patients this month at the society's annual scientific meeting in Washington.

The AGS Panel on Persistent Pain in Older Persons calls for the evaluation and treatment of pain without regard to age or physical condition.

The guidelines include a provision stating that pain is not a necessary component of aging and that no patient should be given a placebo for pain. They also provide an observational evaluation tool for clinicians and caregivers to help evaluate pain.

The panel developed the guidelines after one of the most extensive reviews of research ever conducted into the treatment of pain in older adults.

For more information, go to www.americangeriatrics.org/education/painrelease.shtml.