

Long-Term Care Survey Alert

Tool: Make Screening For Pain As Easy As ABCDE

Empower your residents to participate in defining goals.

The **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** (CMS) recently released this tool to help manage nursing home residents' end-of-life care needs.

To put it to use, keep this ABCDE mnemonic in mind:

A. Ask the patient about (and screen for) pain and other symptoms on admission and periodically thereafter. Assess regularly and systematically for symptoms and their impact on the patient.

B. Believe the patient's report of pain or other symptoms, what precipitates it or makes it worse, and what relieves it.

C. Choose symptom control options that are appropriate for the patient.

D. Deliver interventions in a timely, logical, and coordinated manner.

E. Empower the patient to participate in defining the goals of treatment and planning interventions to the extent possible. Evaluate the effectiveness of chosen interventions.