Checklist: Chronic Pain Management Patient Documentation – Initial Assessment

The following elements are present in the medical record

A. Complete a comprehensive patient evaluation:

__Chief complaint
__Chronologic history of the development of the present pain
  o Location
  o Quality
  o Severity
  o Timing
  o Context
  o Modifying factors and associated signs and symptoms
__Review of systems including
  o Evaluation of the effect of pain on physical and psychological function
  o Past medical history to include past experiences, illnesses, operations and treatments
  o Family history: pain complaints, degenerative disorders, drug or chemical dependency, alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, anxiety and other psychological disorders
  o Social history
__Evidence of review of patient’s past medical records
__Order tests as appropriate
__Document impression and diagnosis in the patient’s medical record
__Assess and document the patient’s potential for addiction

B. Develop and document a treatment plan:

__One or more indications for the use of a controlled substance are listed
__The value of other treatment modalities
__Objectives used to evaluate the success of the prescribed treatment plan are listed
  o Address pain relief
  o Address improved physical function
  o Address psychosocial function; indicate other recommended treatment modalities
__Indications for diagnostic tests ordered
__Referrals for consultations

C. Informed consent for treatment that includes drug therapy:

__An explanation of the recommended drug therapy
  o Its risks
  o Its benefits
  o Its alternatives
  o Explained to the patient’s satisfaction
__ The patient
  o Demonstrated capacity
  o Given the opportunity to ask questions about the recommended drug therapy
  o Questions answered to the patient’s satisfaction
__ The patient has given consent

D. Controlled Substance/Chronic Pain Control Agreement

__ The provider’s policy when prescribing controlled substances for chronic pain management
  o The patient’s consent to random drug screens
  o The requirement for random pill counts
  o The clinician as the single source of controlled substances
  o The pharmacy specified
  o The patient’s written informed consent to release the contract to local emergency departments and pharmacies and for those clinicians to report contract violations to the treating provider

__ Patient education
  o Prescription management
  o Security of medications
  o The risk of physical dependence

__ Opioid therapy discontinuance
  o Treatment goals not met
  o Contract violation
  o Illegal activity and notification of proper authorities
  o Acknowledgement of patient understanding

E. Follow-up appointment

__ Initial 14 day follow-up appointment
__ Documentation supports an initial follow-up appointment greater than 14 days

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