

HEMS
PROCEDURES
PAIN MANAGEMENT SUPPLEMENT

Date: January 3, 2024

Section 7.13 (S)

Purpose: In face of the opioid crisis there has been a national push to decrease the use of opioid pain medication.

1. Many EDs are using ALTO programs (Alternative To Opioids) to treat pain in their departments.
2. Opioid medications are only being used for severe pain when alternatives have failed.

Procedure:

1. Per the **Pain Management Protocol**
 - a. Opioid medications should only be used in patients with severe pain (Wong score greater than 7).
 - b. In order to better serve our patients, we are asking that ALS providers consider limiting the use of IV opioids since we now have available several non-narcotic options to address our patient's pain.
2. Please restrict IV opioid use to the following indications:
 - a. Major burns
 - b. Significant painful injuries
 - c. Cardiac chest pain not relieved with administration of 3 SL Nitro tabs
 - d. Obvious severe kidney stone pain
3. Please do not use IV opioids for the following indications:
 - a. Headache
 - b. Abdominal pain
 - c. Non kidney stone back pain
 - d. Any other pain not defined in either of these lists
4. Contact Medical Control as needed for additional guidance.

