

Safe & Effective Pain Control Screening Checklist

Appropriate Use For Pain Control

Will the patient need opioid pain medication after surgery?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES:

- ☐ Inform the patient about the risks of opioids
- ☐ Consider multimodal pain control to minimize opioid prescriptions as appropriate (for example, tylenol, NSAIDS, gabapentin, flexeril, etc)
- ☐ Review care plan, including use of the ACS Safe & Effective Pain Control after Surgery Education Sheet
- ☐ Review opioid medication for risk of inducing delirium

Experience with Pain Medication

Does the patient have a history of chronic (three months or longer) opioid use?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES:

- ☐ Consider pain service referral prior, during, and after hospitalization

Assessment for Unused Pain Medications

Is the patient expected to use opioid medication after discharge from the hospital or surgical center?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If YES:

- ☐ Review tapering process
- ☐ Provide information about safe disposal and/or safe return of unused opioids
- ☐ Provide information about the safe use of Naloxone

Important Notice

These sample checklists are provided for informational purposes only and should NOT be used in the care of a patient outside of a comprehensive preoperative program such as Strong for Surgery. Patients should not rely on information on this checklist as an alternative to medical advice from a doctor or other professional health care provider. To find out how you can start using the Strong for Surgery checklist in your clinic, please contact us at qualityresources@facs.org.

Strong for Surgery is a free resource from the American College of Surgeons.

© American College of Surgeons. Checklist may be downloaded, printed, and used for patient screening; it may not be adapted, sold, or used to create revenue-generating content by any entity without the express written permission of the ACS.