Palliative Care Problem Severity Score (PCPSS)

Palliative Care Problem Severity Score (PCPSS) is a screening tool used to measure the severity of physical and psychological problems. The PCPSS has four domains: The first three are patient specific. The fourth domain measures family/carer problems associated with the patient’s condition or palliative care needs. The score triggers a more in-depth assessment.1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The PCPSS domains</th>
<th>The PCPSS score</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pain</td>
<td>0 Absent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other symptoms</td>
<td>1 Mild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychological/spiritual</td>
<td>2 Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family/carer</td>
<td>3 Severe</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

How to assess PCPSS

1. Score the overall severity of the problems experienced on admission or at episode start.
2. Assess at episode start.
3. Assess routinely. A minimum of daily in an inpatient setting, at each visit in a community setting or each consult.
4. Assess whenever there is a phase change
5. Assess at episode end when a patient is discharged.
6. Assessment may be conducted face to face or over the phone.
7. Record the score as assessed. The PCPSS scores may be entered directly into an electronic patient record or on a clinical form to be entered into a data system at a later date (e.g. SnapShot). PCOC clinical forms are located on our website [http://ahsri.uow.edu.au/pcoc/forms/index.html](http://ahsri.uow.edu.au/pcoc/forms/index.html).

References for PCPSS:


