



Problem Identification

Many of the indigent people living in Orange County, Florida who have chronic pain receive ineffective or inappropriate pain management and, as a result, have poor health outcomes and diminished quality of life. Major barriers to optimum pain management for this homeless and indigent population include lack of resources, reduced access to health care, mental health problems, drug and alcohol abuse, and negative provider attitudes.

Community Assessment And Project Support

The indigent population (i.e., the poor and the homeless) is increasing in size and remains a persistent problem nationwide. It is difficult to estimate the total number of homeless and indigent people living in Orange County on any given day due to the transient nature of the homeless. It is estimated that more than 168,000 people are either homeless or indigent, accounting for approximately 15% of the total county population. A critical resource lacking in this population is health care.

Chronic Pain Management and the Indigent Population of Orange County, Florida

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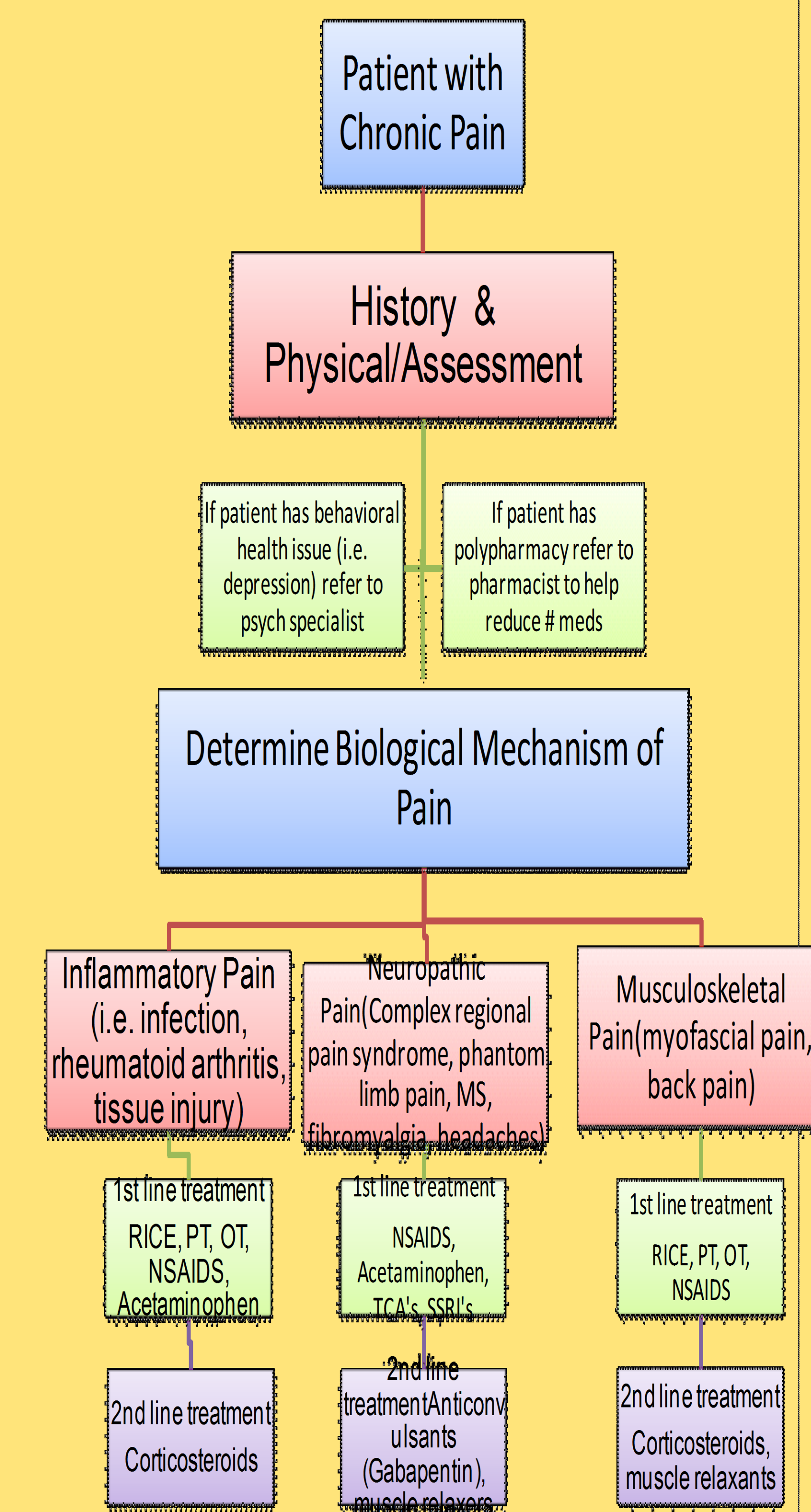
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Health Care Center for the Homeless



The Health Care Center for the Homeless has been providing quality healthcare services to Central Florida's homeless and indigent men, women and children since its inception in 1993.

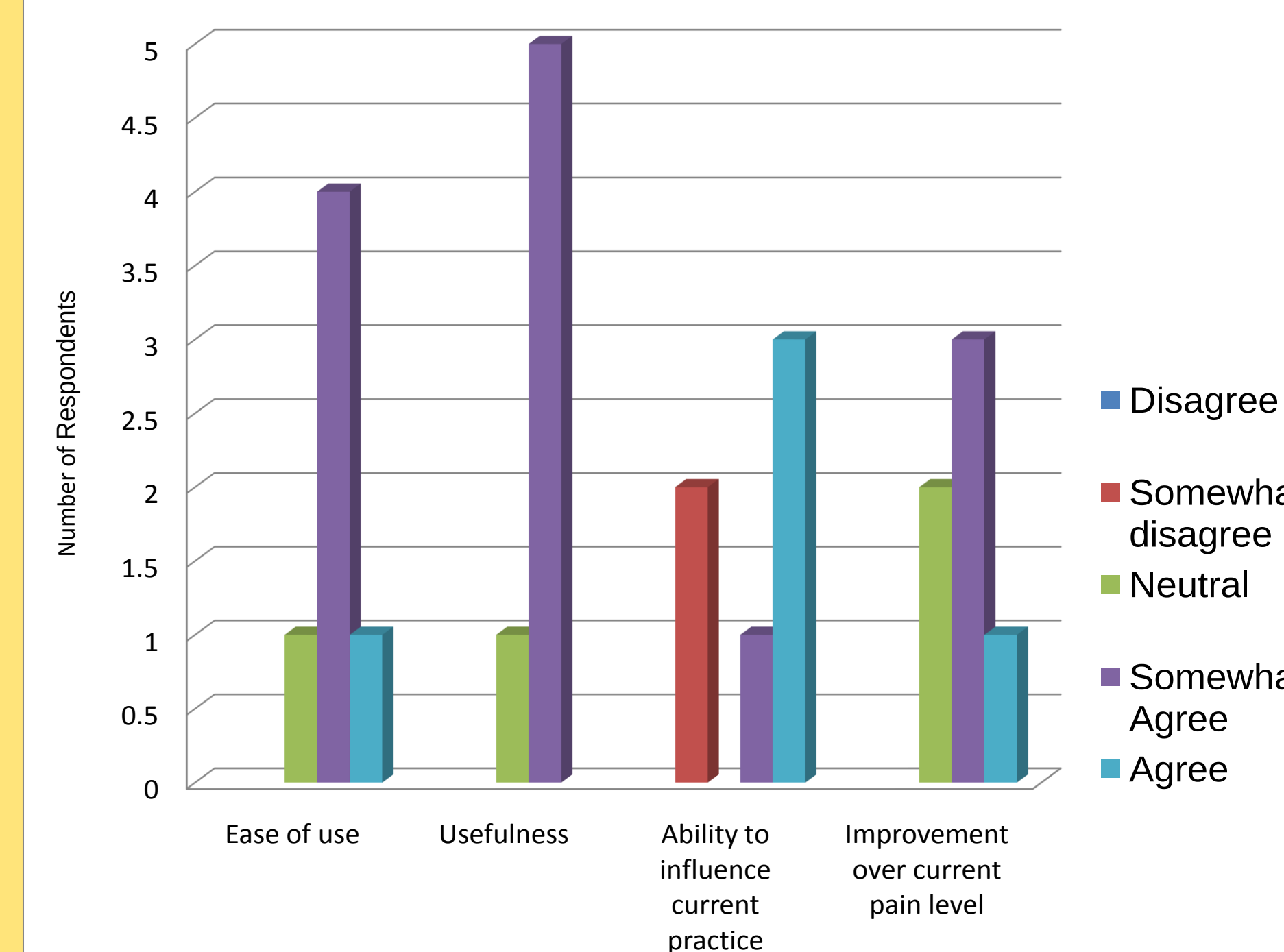
Chronic Pain Management Tool



References: Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement. (2005). Assessment and management of chronic pain. Retrieved January 12th from <http://www.icsi.org/painchronicassessmentandmanagementof14399.html>
Jackman, R., Purvis, J., & Mallett, B. (2008). Chronic nonmalignant pain in primary care. *American Family Physician*, 78(10), 1155-1162.



Outcome Results



Causes of Chronic Pain

- Arthritis
- Strains and Sprains
- Herniated discs
- Fibromyalgia
- Complex regional pain syndrome
- Neck Pain and headaches
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Irritable Bowel Syndrome
- Temporomandibular joint pain
- Tooth abscesses
- Pericoronitis

Project Goal

To develop an effective tool to assist providers in the assessment and treatment of chronic pain in the indigent population.

Feedback Tool

Health Care Center For The Homeless Chronic Pain Management Tool Feedback Form

Please respond to the questions using the 1-5 scale as follows:
1. Disagree 2. Somewhat disagree 3. Neutral 4. Somewhat agree 5. Agree

1. Was the tool easy to use?
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
2. Did you find the tool useful?
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
3. Did use of the tool influence current treatment or interventions?
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
4. Overall, did the patient's pain improve with the use of the tool?
1. 2. 3. 4. 5.

Any suggestions or comments that would help us improve the tool?

Outcomes Report

66% of the respondents reported that the chronic pain management tool demonstrated some degree of effectiveness in chronic pain management. However, only 50% of the providers utilized and evaluated the chronic pain management tool. The primary reason for the results was the low level of commitment by the providers.

Future Direction

After speaking with the lead provider, promotion of the chronic pain management tool among staff would be greatly enhanced with a pocket size guide of the tool.

References

Alford, D. P., & Waldmann, C. A. (2004). Part III: Pain management. Retrieved September 27, from HYPERLINK "http://www.bhchp.org/BHCHP%20Manual/pages/chapters_sections.html".

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Winkleby, M. (1990). Comparison of risk factors of ill health in a sample of homeless and non-homeless poor. *Public Health Rep.*, 105(4), 404-410.