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**Behavioral Approaches  
to Chronic Pain  
Management**

Carolyn McManus PT, MS, MA  
Swedish Medical Center, Seattle WA  
VA Puget Sound Health System, Seattle, WA  
CarolynMcmanus.com

Leslie Russek, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS  
Clarkson University, Potsdam, NY  
Canton-Potsdam Hospital, Potsdam, NY  
<http://people.clarkson.edu/~lrussek>

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**Objectives**

- Clinical practice guidelines
- Research supporting behavioral management
- Physiology of chronic pain
- Integrating behavioral approaches into PT
- Challenges to working with patients with chronic pain
- Summary of behavioral approaches
- Case study
- Pain SIG business meeting

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**Definitions**

- Pain
  - "An unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage, or described in terms of such damage." (International Association for the Study of Pain: <http://www.iasp-pain.org>)
- Chronic pain
  - "Any pain that persists beyond the anticipated time of healing." (Turk 2001)
  - Chronic pain is an error in central pain processing mediated through mechanisms of neural plasticity.
- Although acute pain serves as a protective warning signal, chronic pain has no known survival benefit.

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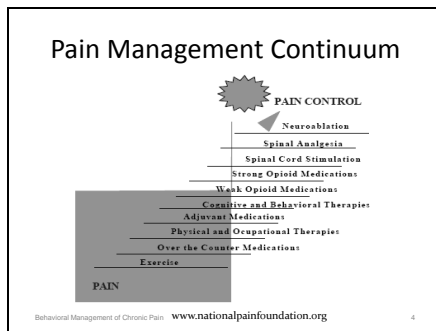
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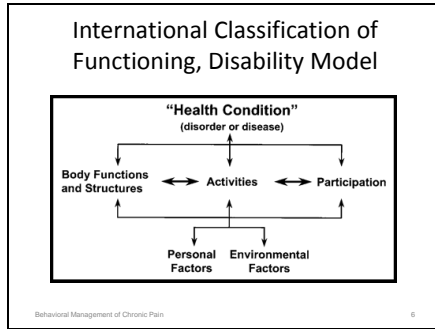
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- ### Chronic Pain as a Disease
- Chronic pain is a 'disease'
  - This 'disease' must be managed
    - Like other chronic diseases: diabetes, hypertension, etc.
  - Set realistic goals:
    - Decrease pain (might not be possible)
    - Increase function
    - Improve quality of life
  - Need disease management skills
    - Address contributing factors as well as symptoms
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- ### Chronic Pain in the ICF Model
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|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Body function</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sensation of pain</li> <li>- Mobility of joints</li> <li>- Muscle power/endurance</li> <li>- Psychomotor function</li> <li>- Proprioceptive function</li> <li>- Exercise tolerance</li> <li>- Energy &amp; drive</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Body Structure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Musculoskeletal structures</li> <li>- Structure of the brain</li> <li>- Structure of the nervous system</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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- ### Chronic Pain in the ICF Model
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Activities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lifting &amp; carrying</li> <li>- Walking/moving around</li> <li>- Maintaining body position</li> <li>- Doing housework</li> <li>- Difficulty handling stress &amp; psychological demands</li> <li>- Focusing attention</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Participation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Daily routine</li> <li>- Remunerative work</li> <li>- Family relationships</li> <li>- Intimate relationships</li> <li>- Community life</li> <li>- Acquisition of goods &amp; services</li> <li>- Recreation/leisure</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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**Chronic Pain in the ICF Model**

- **Personal Factors**
  - Fitness
  - Habits
  - Coping styles
  - Lifestyle
  - Psychological assets
  - Upbringing
  - Social background
- **Environmental Factors**
  - Technology for home or employment
  - Healthcare professionals
  - Social security policies
  - General support services, transportation
  - Attitudes of family, friends, colleagues, health professionals

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**Chronic Pain Clinical Practice Guideline Recommendations**

- Use biopsychosocial approach
- All patients should participate in exercise
- Include cognitive behavioral approach
- Psychosocial problems do not invalidate pain complaint
- Treatment should be sensitive to culture
- Active self-management is essential
- Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) Assessment & Management of Chronic Pain: [www.icsi.org/guidelines\\_and\\_more/ig\\_os\\_prot/](http://www.icsi.org/guidelines_and_more/ig_os_prot/)

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### Pain Models

<b>Biomedical Model</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appropriate for acute pain</li><li>• Peripheral nociception is primary input for pain</li><li>• Treatment focus on disease or injury</li><li>• Reductionist approach</li><li>• Reliance on medical management</li></ul>	<b>Biopsychosocial Model</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appropriate for chronic pain</li><li>• Central processing modulates nociception and the experience of pain</li><li>• Illness behavior, cognitive &amp; emotional responses strongly impact pain</li><li>• Multidimensional approach</li><li>• Emphasize self-management</li></ul>
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Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) Medical Treatment Guideline at [www.dtr.ca.gov/\\_MTUS\\_ChronicPainMedicalTreatmentGuidelines.pdf](http://www.dtr.ca.gov/_MTUS_ChronicPainMedicalTreatmentGuidelines.pdf)  
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### Physiology of Chronic Pain

- Pain pathway succinct overview
- Pain classification
- The brain in chronic pain
- Stress and pain
- Cognitive frame

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### Pain Pathways

Ascending Pain Pathways  
Complex Processing by the Brain

Descending Pain Pathways  
(Schweinhart 2010)

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**Pain Categories**

- Nociceptive pain
  - Evoked by noxious stimulus
- Inflammatory pain
  - Evoked by inflammatory processes
- Pathological pain
  - Neuropathic pain evoked by peripheral nerve damage
  - Dysfunctional pain evoked, in the absence of tissue damage, by sensitization of central nervous system neurons

Woolf 2010

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**If Pain Were a Fire Alarm...**

- Nociceptive pain would be activated by a hot fire
- Inflammatory pain would be activated by warm temperatures
- Pathological pain would be a false alarm.
  - The alarm is going off, but there is no fire.
  - The problem is the wiring.

Woolf 2010

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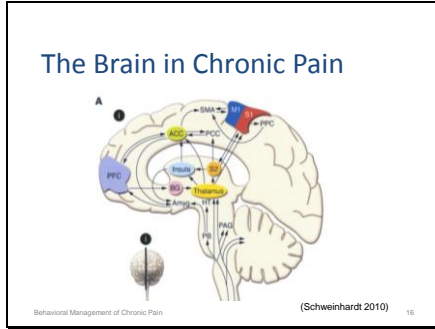
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- ### Brain Changes in Chronic Pain
- Grey matter reductions in prefrontal, cingulate and insula cortices (May 2008)
  - Reorganization of motor and somatosensory cortices (Tsao 2008)
  - Increased rest activity and abnormal functional connectivity in the insula and anterior cingulate (Malinen 2010)
  - A shift away from sensory processing regions toward regions encoding emotional & motivational states (Apkarian 2011)
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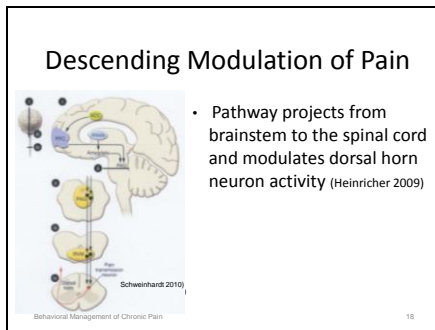
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- Pathway projects from brainstem to the spinal cord and modulates dorsal horn neuron activity (Heinricher 2009)

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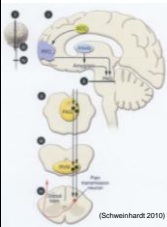
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### Descending Modulation of Pain



- Neurons in the rostral ventral medial medulla (RVM)
  - On cells: descending facilitation
  - Off cells: descending inhibition
- Facilitatory and inhibitory activation is usually balanced
  - This balance can shift with injury, chronic pain, attention and stress (Heinricher 2009, Sprenger 2012, Wagner 2013)

(Schweinhart 2010)

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### Stress and Pain

- Slows wound healing (Kiecolt-Glaser 1995, Marucha 1998)
- Implicated in the transition from acute to chronic back pain (Pincus 2002)
- Can contribute to exacerbation of
  - Fibromyalgia (Alder 2005)
  - Chronic headaches (Houle, 2009)
  - Rheumatoid arthritis (Eijssbouts 1999)
  - Pelvic pain (Heim 1998)
  - Irritable bowel syndrome (Bach 2006)
  - Persistent postmastectomy pain (Schrieber 2013)
- Adversely affects surgical outcomes (Van Susante 1998, Geiss 2005)

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### Stress and Pain

- Laboratory research on rodents suggests peripheral and central mechanisms contribute to stress induced hyperalgesia. (Quintero 2011, Rivat 2010, Martenson 2009)
- Water avoidance stress in rats produced mechanical hyperalgesia in skeletal muscle and:
  - 34% decrease in mechanical threshold of muscle nociceptors
  - Nearly two-fold increase in action potentials produced by a fixed intensity suprathreshold stimulus.
  - 67% increase in conduction velocity (Chen 2011)

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### Childhood Trauma/Abuse & Pain

- Over-activates hypothalamic-pituitary axis (HPA) in childhood, blunts HPA responses as an adult
- Alters dopamine, serotonin, GABA, & cytokines
- Results in structural brain changes
- Alters epigenetics of neuroendocrine system
- Increases risk of chronic pain in adulthood
- (Tietjen 2011, Davis 2005)

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### Cognitive Frame

1. Expectation

Treatment expectations substantially modulate benefit of opioid medication

Expectation	Pain Intensity (VAS)
Baseline	65
No Expectation	55
Positive Expectation	40
Negative Expectation	65

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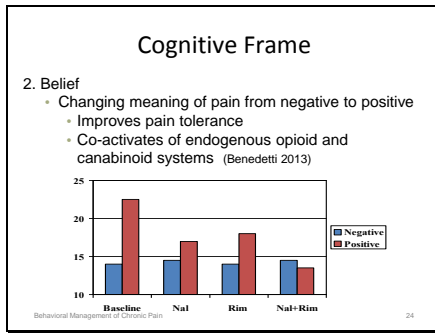
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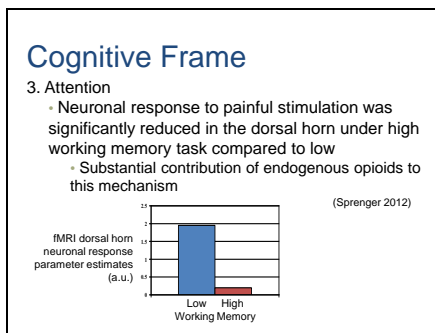
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**Pain Physiology: Summary**

- Treatment of chronic pain requires an accurate understanding of underlying mechanisms
  - These mechanisms are complex and multi-factorial
  - The experience of pain does not require peripheral tissue damage
- All pain perception involves activation of cognitive and emotional brain areas
- Chronic pain is associated with structural and functional brain changes
- Cognitive processing alters descending pathway modulation in the spinal cord

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**Pain Physiology: Summary**

- Stress plays a role in generating hyperalgesia and chronic pain through both central and peripheral mechanisms
- Childhood trauma and abuse adversely alters neuroanatomy and neurophysiology
  - Leading to an increase risk of chronic pain as an adult

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**Psychosocial Impact on Pain**

- WHO decree that chronic pain management should take a biopsychosocial perspective
- Failure to address psychosocial issues leads to poorer outcomes (Nicholas, 2011; Foster, 2011)
- Common psychosocial obstacles to recovery from chronic pain:
  - Stress
  - Anxiety, fear-avoidance, catastrophization
  - Depression, negativity
  - Low personal control
  - Social isolation

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**Integrating Behavioral Approaches**

- Pain education, including neurophysiology
- Mindfulness
- Breathing
- Cognitive behavioral approaches
- Relaxation
- Biofeedback
- Behavioral approaches to exercise: traditional, tai chi, qigong, yoga, visualization, guided imagery

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**Pain Education**

- Patients understand factors contributing to their experience of pain
- Offered in individual or class format
- Topics include:
  - Anatomy of the nervous system
  - Peripheral and central sensitization
  - How the brain and spinal cord process and regulate pain information
  - Neuroplasticity
  - Difference between acute and chronic pain
  - Pathological pain: hurt ≠ harm

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**Pain Education**

- A recent systematic review of neurophysiology pain education concludes that for chronic musculoskeletal disorders, this education strategy may have a positive impact on pain, disability, catastrophizing and physical performance
- (Louw 2011)

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**Key take home messages**

- Pain is *not* due to incoming messages from the peripheral nervous system alone
- *All* pain perception shares neuropathways with cognition and emotion
- No brain, no pain
- Pain does not always imply tissue damage
  - Hurt does not always mean harm

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**Key take home messages**

- Sensitive nerves send signals in the absence of tissue damage
- The brain contributes to generating pain in the absence of tissue damage
- The body's stress reaction increases nerve sensitivity and generates pain in the absence of tissue damage
- Cognitive and behavioral choices impact nervous system activation

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**Skillful language for patients**

- “I am sore, but I am safe.”
- “Hurt does not mean harm.”
- “If I stay calm, my nerves will stay calm.”
- “That sensation is due to my sensitive nerves over-firing. I do not have to give it my attention.”

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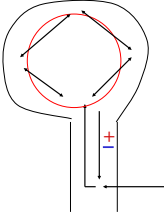
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**Pain Education**

1. Nerves carry information from body area to spinal cord
2. Communicates with a spinal cord nerve pathway that carries information to the brain
3. The brain processes the information
4. Another nerve pathway carries information back down to the spinal cord and, like a volume control, can increase or decrease the activity here
5. With ongoing pain and stress, these pathways become sensitive and generate pain in the absence of tissue damage



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### Pain Education

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### Mindfulness

- History:
  - In 1979 Jon Kabat Zinn began teaching mindfulness meditation to patients with chronic medical conditions at the University of Massachusetts Medical Center
  - Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR)
  - Program: 1x/week, 2.5 hours, 8 consecutive weeks
  - *Full Catastrophe Living* by Kabat Zinn
  - Tens of thousands of people have now gone through this program worldwide
- <http://w3.umassmed.edu/MBSR/public/searchmember.aspx>

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### Mindfulness

Research

Comprehensive literature review concludes that in chronic health conditions including heart disease, chronic pain, RA, fibromyalgia, type 2 diabetes, PTSD, depression and cancer, MBSR contributes to improved;

- coping
- well-being
- quality of life
- health outcomes (Merkes 2010)

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**Mindfulness**

**Pain-related Research**

Meditation has been shown to contribute to:

- Lower baseline pain sensitivity (Grant 2009)
- Less negative appraisal of pain (Brown 2010)
- Reduced pain attentional bias toward pain in adults with chronic pain (Garland 2013)
- Improved pain acceptance and physical function in older adults with chronic low back pain (Morone 2008)
- Improved pain scores, physical and social function in women with chronic pelvic pain (Fox 2011)

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**Mindful Awareness:  
Skillful Way to Pay Attention**

- Present moment
- Stable
- Non-judging
- Accepting
- Kind, friendly
- Curious
- Non-striving

• <http://www.carolynmcanus.com/pages/workshops.html>  
Introduction to Mindfulness Parts 1 & 2

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**Mindful Awareness**

- Pain = Sensation + Your Reaction
  - Physical
  - Cognitive
  - Emotional
- The first step to self-regulate your reaction to pain is to skillfully observe your present moment experience with mindful awareness
- Be curious and experiment

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**Mindful Awareness**

1. Physical
  - Breathe
2. Cognitive
  - Label pain "sensation"
  - Mind is like a camera lens. Choose wide angle.
    - Mind is like the sky, sensation is like a cloud

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**Mindful Awareness**

2. Cognitive
  - Fear and worry are about the future.
    - Plan for tomorrow but do not live there.
    - Return to the present moment and today.
    - How do you best take care of yourself here and now?
    - This makes for a good today and serves as the foundation for tomorrow.

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**Mindful Awareness**

- 3. Emotional: Kindness and compassion
  - How you would show up for a friend in your circumstance?
  - Notice how this feels in your body and the language that comes to you.
    - This is your natural wisdom in the face of life's challenges.
  - As you breathe, pay attention to this breathe with the same understanding and goodwill that you would show to a dear friend

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**Mindful Breathing**

- Slow, deep breathing reduces sympathetic nervous system activity and pain perception (Chalaye 2009, Busch 2012)
- May prove especially helpful to patients with fibromyalgia. Compared to healthy controls FM patients:
  - Have smaller chest expansion measurements
  - Lower maximal inspiratory and expiratory pressures (Ozgocmen 2002)

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**Home Program**

- Practice mindful breathing:
  - When you experience pain escalation
  - Formal mindful breathing practice
    - Guided meditation instructions: CDs, online, apps
  - Informal breathing practice
    - Become aware of your breathing during routine daily activities

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**Psychosocial Approaches**

- Behavioral analysis should be part of the initial patient evaluation
- Identify links between patient's complaints and:
  - Behaviors:
    - Fear avoidance, pain persistence
  - Internal environment:
    - Thoughts, moods, sensations such as anxiety, stress, depression, low internal sense of control
  - External environment:
    - Stressors, supports, family and friends

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**Customize Approach to Person**

- Different personality types benefit from different behavioral/psychological approaches
- Response to pain (van Koull, 2010/11)
  - Fear-avoidance
  - Pain-persistence
- Cognitive clusters (Flor & Turk, 2011)
  - “Well-adapted”
  - “Dysfunctional”
  - “Distressed with little social support”
  - “Psychophysiological highly reactive”

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**Fear-Avoidance vs.  
Pain-Persistence**

<p><u><b>Fear-Avoidance</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain-avoidant behavior</li> <li>• Fear of pain</li> <li>• Catastrophizing</li> <li>• Hypervigilance</li> <li>• Social reinforcement for pain behaviors</li> </ul> 	<p><u><b>Pain-Persistence</b></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue activity in spite of pain</li> <li>• Ignore or deny pain</li> <li>• Set unrealistic goals</li> <li>• Ignore physical limits</li> <li>• Low</li> </ul> 
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**Managing Fear-Avoidance**

- Decrease focus on symptoms
- Goal setting
- Gradual increase in activity, independent of symptoms
- Reinforcing healthy behaviors
- Ignoring pain behaviors
- Progressive exercise (quota system)
- Graded exposure
- Visualization

(van Koudil, 2010, 2011)

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**Managing Pain-Persistence**

- Realistic goal-setting
- Pacing
- Activity regulation (alternating activity & inactivity)
- Balanced daily activity
- Cognitive restructuring
- Gradually progressed conditioning exercises
- Gradual increase in activity
- Assertiveness training
  - (van Koull, 2010, 2011)

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**Pain Personality Types**  
(Flor & Turk, 2011)

1. **“Well-adapted”**: low levels of pain, distress, interference with life; high self-efficacy and activity
  - Rx: pain education & coping skills
2. **“Dysfunctional”**: high pain intensity, interference with activity, pain behavior, social support & solicitousness; negative pain self-talk.
  - Rx: operant treatment approach

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**Pain Personality Types**  
(Flor & Turk, 2011)

3. **“Distressed with little social support”**: low self-efficacy, social support, solicitousness of others; ‘punished’ rather than rewarded for pain behavior; high affective distress & perceived daily stress
  - Rx: CBT, including stress & pain management, managing dysfunctional relationships

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**Pain Personality Types**  
(Flor & Turk, 2011)

4. **“Psychophysiologically highly reactive”**: high stress-reactivity, muscle tension, daily stress; low social support, little reinforcement for pain behavior, low activity due to pain.  
– Rx: relaxation, biofeedback

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**Cognitive Behavioral Approach**

- Patient education about physiological and psychosocial aspects of chronic pain
- Education that Rx must address both components
- Pain management rather than elimination
- Active patient participation
- Emphasis on wellness behaviors
  - Enlist family support
- Elimination of fear-avoidance or pain-persistence
- Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) Assessment & Management of Chronic Pain: [www.icsi.org/guidelines](http://www.icsi.org/guidelines) and [more/ij\\_os\\_prof/](http://more/ij_os_prof/) (Guidelines for using CBT in a busy clinical environment)

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**Cognitive Behavioral Approach**

- Do not use pain as a guide (“Hurt ≠ harm”)
- Time-contingent, not pain-contingent activity level and medication usage
- Progressive exercise and activity
- Return to activity and participation
- Pleasant activity scheduling
- Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI) Assessment & Management of Chronic Pain: [www.icsi.org/guidelines\\_and\\_more/gl\\_os\\_prot/](http://www.icsi.org/guidelines_and_more/gl_os_prot/) (Guidelines for using CBT in a busy clinical environment)

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 56

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Slide 57

**Cognitive Restructuring**

- Identify automatic negative thoughts, including catastrophizing
- Challenge these thoughts, replace them with coping strategies
- Example:
  - **Identify negative thoughts:** “On Sunday I got a full-blown headache that sent me to bed. I will never be healthy.”
  - **Challenge thoughts:** “I felt really good for 5 days. I did a lot of yard work Saturday because I felt so good. I had a flare because I did more than my current strength allows. I can’t do that much yard work now, but I might be able when I am stronger. I will recover from this flare.”

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 57

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Slide 58

**Problem-Solving**

- Identify the problem
- Generate potential solutions
- Prioritize options
- Implement solution and assess effectiveness
- Example:
  - **Identify problem:** “Doing yard-work flared my neck pain because I did too much lifting and bending over; I wasn’t thinking about posture or body mechanics.”
  - **Generate solutions:** “I need to work more slowly and thoughtfully, so I can use good body mechanics and posture. Have the kids lift and carry so I don’t do as much. Rest after an hour, even if I haven’t finished, then do more later...”

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 58

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Slide 59

**Pain Coping Skills** (Nielson, 2013)

- Progressive relaxation
- Activity-rest cycles & pacing
- Graded activity
- Pleasant activity scheduling
- Challenging negative thoughts
- Calming self-statements
- Distraction
- Problems solving
- Flare management

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 59

Slide 60

**Operant Restructuring** (Flor & Turk, 2011)

- Based on premise that pain behaviors have been positively reinforced & healthy behaviors have not
- Decreases inappropriate behaviors:
  - Activity avoidance
  - Bracing & guarding
  - Excessive reliance on medications
- Example:
  - "When I first injured myself, it was appropriate to avoid activities that increased pain. Now, pain is due to a malfunction of the nervous system rather than damage to my muscles or joints. Exercise may be uncomfortable, but will increase my function and won't damage my muscles or joints."

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 60



Slide 61

### Pacing

- Avoid over-activity “yo-yo”
- Address deconditioning
- Determine baseline tolerance
  - E.g., 10-20% below level that causes a flare
- Use time based pacing
  - Avoid task-based or pain-based pacing
- Gradually progress activity
- During flare, decrease to 50%, but do not stop

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 61

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Slide 62

### Pleasant Activity Scheduling

- People with chronic pain tend to neglect pleasant activities
  - Due to belief they do not deserve to enjoy themselves
  - As punishment for being unable to do ‘work’ activities
  - Because of decreased enjoyment overall
- Have patients identify realistic pleasant activities
  - And activities they might be able to do in the future
- Have patients schedule pleasant activities

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 62

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Slide 63

### Sleep Hygiene

- Relax before bedtime; avoid stressful activities
  - Practice relaxation activity: meditation, breathing...
  - Avoid television, computers etc at bedtime
- Keep bedroom comfortable (dark, warm, quiet)
- Exercise daily (not vigorously within 3 hrs of bedtime)
- Avoid caffeine, nicotine, alcohol
- Keep a routine: specific times & activities
- Reserve bedroom for sleep & intimacy
- Get up after 20 minutes unable to fall asleep

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 63

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Slide 64

**Relaxation**

- Meditation
- Diaphragmatic breathing
- Progressive muscle relaxation
- Visualization
- Autogenic training
- Activity-based
  - Yoga, Tai Chi, Qigong
- Biofeedback



Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 64

Slide 65

**Biofeedback** (McKee 2008, Flor & Turk 2011)

- Types
  - Surface electromyography (EMG)
  - Heart rate, blood pressure, respiration rate
  - Heart rate variability
  - Skin temperature
  - Electrodermal reaction (galvanic skin response, GSM)
  - Games and apps
- Research on effectiveness
- Protocols

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 65

Slide 66

**Biofeedback: Surface EMG**

- Good for chronic pain, anxiety, headaches, myofascial pain, TMD, incontinence
- Advantages: immediate feedback makes it easy for patients to learn and progress
- Disadvantages: cost of equipment, time demands
- Cost: \$2,000-4,000



Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 66

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Slide 67

**Biofeedback: Heart Rate**

- Good for chronic pain, anxiety, depression, HTN
- Advantages: inexpensive, most clinics have pulse oximeters, easy for patients to understand
- Disadvantages: difficult for patients to learn control
- Cost: \$20-40



Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 67

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Slide 68

**Biofeedback: HR Variability**

- Good for chronic pain, anxiety, depression, asthma, HTN
- Advantages: immediate feedback, easy to learn control, ability to 'keep score' and set targets, equipment relatively inexpensive
- Disadvantages: few clinics own equipment or are familiar with use
- Cost: \$130-180
- iPhone app: StressDoctor \$5



Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 68

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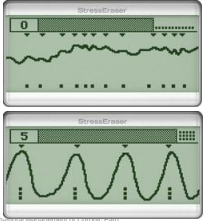
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Slide 69

### Heart Rate Variability



**Stressed:**

- Jagged line

**Relaxed:**

- Smooth curve
- Boxes under curve
- Session score

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 69

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Slide 70

### Biofeedback: Temperature

- Good for chronic pain, migraine, HTN, Raynaud's, edema
- Advantages: inexpensive
- Disadvantages: difficult to learn, slow response
- Cost: \$20-40
- Bio-Q ring



Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 70

Slide 71

**Biofeedback:**  
**Galvanic Skin Response**

- Good for chronic pain, anxiety, headaches
- Advantages: relatively fast response, can connect to computer for visual/graphic feedback
- Disadvantages: difficult to learn, few clinics own equipment
- Cost: \$100-200
- The Wild Divine



Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 71

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Slide 72

**Biofeedback Games**

- The Wild Divine galvanic skin response (\$400-500)
- Thought Stream galvanic skin response (\$160)
- MindField GSR or skin temperature attachments for iPhone attachment & app (\$100)
- StressDoctor iPhone heart-rate variability app (\$5)
- Thought Technology (GSR), Inner Balance (HRV)
- Nintendo HR monitor



Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 72

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Slide 73

**Biofeedback Procedures**

- Teach relaxation response using biofeedback
- Have patients practice relaxation skills without biofeedback
- Gradually expose patient to stressful positions or situations
- Have patients apply relaxation skills outside the clinic
  - Premack's principle: identify a tension-assessment cue to trigger relaxation response

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 73

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Slide 74

**Use of “Homework”**

- Emphasize importance of cognitive & behavioral activities
- Treat relaxation, etc., like a prescription that must be done regularly
- Clearly set dose and intensity, just as with exercise
- Monitor adherence to behavioral program
- Problem solve lack of adherence

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 74

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Slide 75

**Physical Activity & Exercise**

- Mind-body exercises:
  - Tai chi
  - Qigung
  - Yoga
- Visualization
- Graded motor imagery
- Graded activity
- Graded exposure

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 75

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Slide 76

**Visualization** (Priganc 2011)

- Simple visualization
- Mirror visual feedback:
  - Performing an exercise using mirrors to observe motion
  - Research suggests visualization may minimize increases in pain due to movement/exercise

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 76

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Slide 77

**Graded Motor Imagery**

- Left-right judgment
- Motor imagery: visualization without actual movement
  - Static positions
  - Movement into positions
- Mirror visual feedback
  - Provides visual/cortical input that movement is normal and pain free
  - (Bowering, 2013; Priganc, 2011)



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Slide 78

**Graded Exercise**

- Graded exercise progresses exercises using a quota
  - In spite of pain
  - Identify baseline activity tolerated
  - Meeting the quota leads to increased quota (“pacing up”)
  - Inability to meet quota leads to no reinforcement
- (George 2010, Nicholas 2011)

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 78

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Slide 79

**Graded Exposure**

- Graded exposure to feared activities
  - Identify feared activities
    - By interview or Fear of Daily Activities Questionnaire
  - Start with activities causing mild anxiety
  - Continue at that level until anxiety decreases
  - Progress to activities causing greater anxiety
- Example: if lumbar flexion is feared
  - Start with flexion in supine
  - Progress to flexion in sitting
  - Progress to flexion in standing
- (George, 2010, Nicholas, 2011)

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 79

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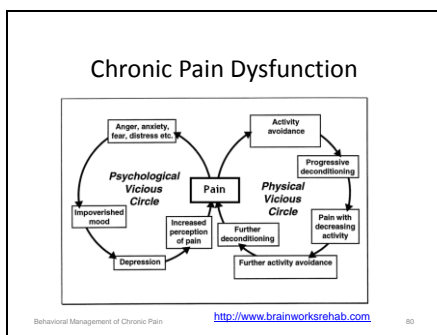
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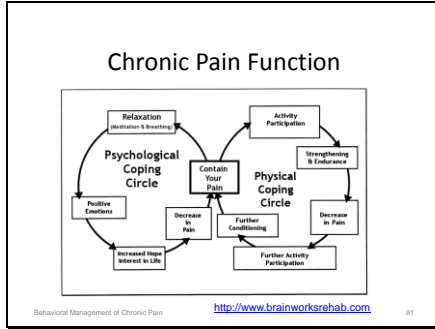
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Slide 80





Slide 81




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Slide 82

- Challenges Working with People With Chronic Pain**
- Dealing with patients' psychosocial problems
  - Dealing with patients' negative attitudes
  - Empathy fatigue
  - Time management
  - Insurance & Billing
- Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 82

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Slide 83

- Patient's Psychosocial Problems**
- Psychological and social problems may be beyond our training and skill level
  - Suggestions
    - Refer for psychological services
    - Recommend support groups (in-person/on-line)
    - Recommend self-care books, web-sites, etc.
    - Know your limits
    - Know your scope of practice
- Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 83

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Slide 84

**Maladaptive Attitudes**

- Misconceptions about exercise
  - Interpreting normal exertional soreness as pain flare
- Interpreting moderation as failure
- Poor body awareness
  - Inability to distinguish stress from muscle tension
  - Inability to distinguish emotional from physical pain
  - Inability to feel mild 'warning' discomfort
- Suggestions:
  - Education: "Sore but safe," "Challenge tissues"
  - Mindful movement: tai chi, yoga, Feldenkrais

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 84

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Slide 85

**Maladaptive Attitudes**

- Have great difficulty pacing themselves and tend to overdo activity
  - Garden metaphor
- Inconsistent with home exercise program
  - Start low, go slow
  - No achievable goal is too small
- Skeptical of mind-body approach
  - Pain education

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 85

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Slide 86

### Time Constraints

- How can you do all this patient education on top of everything you already do?
- Limit hands-on and modalities
  - Research shows little long-term benefit
- Focus time on patients' self-management skills
  - Managing their own trigger points
  - Home exercises
  - Home use of heat, TENS, traction, if needed
- Select specific, achievable goals for each visit

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 86

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Slide 87

### Avoiding Therapist Burnout

- Suggestions:
  - Remember: you control the treatment, but the patient is responsible for the outcome through his/her active engagement
  - Be aware of your triggers and limits
  - Be compassionate with yourself
  - Be at ease with pain you cannot relieve
  - Think about what went right in your day
  - Communicate with colleagues and support system
  - (Stebnicki, 2000: Empathy fatigue)

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Slide 88

### Billing & Insurance

- How do we bill for behavioral management?
  - 97112 Neuromuscular reeducation
  - 97535 Self-care/home management training
  - 97110 Therapeutic exercise
- Insurance problems
  - Time-based approval (e.g., 6 wks): advocate for a given number of visits
  - Visit limits: spread visits out, e.g., 1x/wk

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 88

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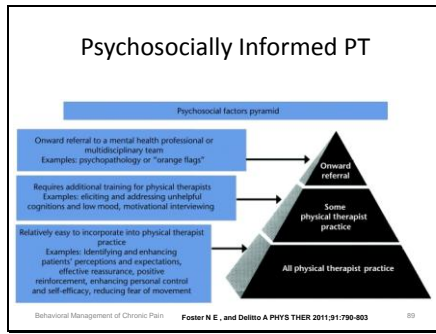
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Slide 89



Slide 90

**Case Study : Jake**  
38 y/o man c/o 4 yr hx of chronic neck, upper back and UE pain that had become more severe in the past 2 years  
Gradual onset, no specific precipitating factors  
Pain intensity 4-9/10, average 5/10  
Constant, dull, throbbing, aching, intermittently shock-like  
Aggravates: working at a computer for greater than 30 min, carrying anything  
Eases: rest, ice, heat  
Interference scale: 1 none - 10 maximum  
General activity 7  
Mood 9  
Normal work 6  
Relationships 4  
Enjoyment of life 9  
Normal MRI

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 90

Slide 91

**Previous treatment:**  
4 different courses of PT that included manual therapy, stretching, strengthening, ultrasound, traction, hand and wrist splints  
Chiropractic, acupuncture and massage

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 91

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Slide 92

**Patient perspective:**  
“None of it helped and as the years progressed I got worse and worse. I felt like I was aging exponentially. I was withering away and losing weight. I was in total despair and thought to myself that at this rate, I was destined for a life of sickness. I tried very hard to think positive, but at times the weight of pain and worry was overwhelming.” Jake

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 92

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Slide 93

**Treatment directed at chronic pain mechanisms:**

- 3 visits individual treatment:
  - introduced mindfulness,
  - body awareness,
  - surface EMG biofeedback,
  - breathing,
  - relaxation
  - cognitive restructuring
- Pain education class
- Mindfulness based stress reduction program

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 93

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Slide 94

**Patient perspective:**  
“I learned that there wasn't anything wrong with my body. At first I didn't believe it. The pain was real! Then I was taught a different way of looking at pain. My nerves were the problem. It became clear that my pain was a manifestation of my stress and it was compounded by the way I reacted to the pain and life situations.” Jake

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 94

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Slide 95

**Patient perspective:**  
“Understanding the biology of pain helped a lot. At the start of all of this, when my pain increased, I panicked and thought there was something wrong. I kept doing less and less because I thought I was hurting myself. Now, I know sensitive nerves had a major role in my pain. I stopped freaking out. Instead of panicking, I told myself to stay calm. I stretched, relaxed and did deep breathing. It really made a difference.” Jake

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 95

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Slide 96

**Patient perspective:**  
"After a few weeks I found amazing results. The pain decreased and I could do more. By the time I finished the course I was virtually pain free. I also learned a new way of looking at the world. I had gone my whole life without living in the moment. Now I don't even stress about things that drove me crazy before. I am more compassionate, patient and deliberate."  
Jake

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 96

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Slide 97

**In Conclusion...**

- Clinical Practice Guideline approach:
  - Use **biopsychosocial approach**
  - **All patients should participate in exercise**
  - **Include cognitive behavioral approach**
  - **Psychosocial problems do not invalidate pain complaint**
  - Treatment should be sensitive to culture
  - **Active self-management is essential**
- Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICS) Assessment & Management of Chronic Pain: [www.ics.org/guidelines\\_and\\_more/ig\\_os\\_prol](http://www.ics.org/guidelines_and_more/ig_os_prol)

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Slide 98

**We would like to thank:**

**Orthopedic Section Leadership**

- Tess Vaughn, PT, COMT, DPT, OCS, Education Committee Chair
- John Garzzone, PT, AAPM, President, Pain Special Interest Group

**Carolyn's colleagues:** Will Robinson PT, Jo Fasen PT, Gordon Irving, MD and the staff in Outpatient Rehab Services, Swedish Medical Center

**Leslie's colleagues:** faculty and students at Clarkson University and staff at Canton-Potsdam Hospital

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Slide 99

**Resources in the Handout**

- Books for both the PT and patients
- Web sites for both the PT and patients
- Reference list for this presentation

Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 99

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Slide 100

**Please stay for the Pain  
Special Interest Group  
Business Meeting**



Behavioral Management of Chronic Pain 100

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## Behavioral Approaches to Chronic Pain Management

Carolyn McManus & Leslie Russek

CSM 2014: 2/6/14

### Helpful Books/Resources

- Branch R, Wilson R. **Cognitive Behavioural Therapy for Dummies**. Wiley & Sons, 2010. (patient resource)
- Butler D, Mosely L. **Explain Pain**. Adelaide, Noigroup Publications, 2003. (PT and patient resource)
- Caudill, M. **Managing Pain Before It Manages You**. New York: Guilford Press, 2008. (patient resource)
- Flor H, Turk D. **Chronic Pain: An Integrated Biobehavioral Approach**. Seattle, IASP Press, 2011. (PT resource)
- Kabat-Zinn J. **Mindfulness for Pain Relief** (CD). Sounds True, Inc, 2009. (patient resource)
- Kabat-Zinn, J. **Full Catastrophe Living: Using the Wisdom of Your Body and Mind to Face Stress, Pain and Illness**. New York: Del Publishing Co, 1991. (patient resource)
- Louw A. **Why Do I Hurt?** Orthopedic Physical Therapy Products. 2013. (patient resource)
- Otis, John. **Managing Chronic Pain: A Cognitive Behavioral Approach**. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. (patient resource)
- Schubiner, H. **Unlearn Your Pain**. Available through Dr. Schubiner's website: [www.unlearnyourpain.com](http://www.unlearnyourpain.com) (patient resource)
- Sluka K. **Mechanisms and Management of Pain for the Physical Therapist**. Seattle, IASP Press, 2009. (PT resource)
- Turk D and Winter F. **The Pain Survival Guide: How to Reclaim Your Life**. Amer Psychological Assn, 2005. (patient resource)
- Vierck E, Kassan S, Vierck C.J. **Chronic Pain for Dummies**, for Dummies, 2011. (patient resource)

### Helpful Websites

Organization/Purpose	Website
<b>American Academy of Pain Medicine</b> . Professional organization for physicians has some patient educational material.	<a href="http://www.painmed.org">www.painmed.org</a>
<b>American Chronic Pain Association</b> . Provides education and peer support for patients and families.	<a href="http://www.theacpa.org">www.theacpa.org</a>
<b>American Pain Foundation</b> . Educational material for patients and families, including material specifically for military & veterans with chronic pain.	<a href="http://www.painfoundation.org">www.painfoundation.org</a>
<b>Australian Transport Accident Commission</b> has an extensive selection of physical and psychosocial outcome measures.	<a href="http://www.tac.vic.gov.au">http://www.tac.vic.gov.au</a> Go to Provider Resources, Clinical Resources, then Outcome Measures
<b>Carolyn McManus</b> : Information regarding programs at Swedish Medical Center, for veterans and also audio guided relaxation programs	<a href="http://www.CarolynMcmanus.com">www.CarolynMcmanus.com</a>
<b>Change Pain</b> : A modular approach to understanding pain and its management. Educational resources for clinicians.	<a href="http://www.change-pain.co.uk/">http://www.change-pain.co.uk/</a>
<b>Hunter Integrated Pain Service</b> : YouTube patient education video "Understanding Pain: What to do about it in less than five minutes?"	YouTube link: <a href="http://youtu.be/4b8oB757DKc">http://youtu.be/4b8oB757DKc</a>
<b>Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (ICSI)</b> :	<a href="http://www.icsi.org/guidelines_and_more/gl_os_prot/">http://www.icsi.org/guidelines_and_more/gl_os_prot/</a>

Assessment & Management of Chronic Pain. Clinical practice guideline on chronic pain.	search for guidelines on pain
<b>International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP).</b> Professional organization for researchers, clinicians and educators. Has some public education resources.	<a href="http://www.iasp-pain.org">www.iasp-pain.org</a>
<b>Mayday Pain Project.</b> Educational information for providers, patients, and specific sections for caregivers.	<a href="http://www.painandhealth.org">www.painandhealth.org</a>
<b>California Department of Industrial Relations:</b> Medical Treatment Utilization Schedule (MTUS) Medical Treatment Guideline for chronic pain	<a href="http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/MTUS/MTUS_RegulationsGuidelines.html">http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/MTUS/MTUS_RegulationsGuidelines.html</a> select "Chronic pain medical treatment guidelines"
<b>Neil Pearson</b> , PT, a Canadian physical therapist discusses nervous system sensitization in a 3 part video	<a href="http://www.Lifeisnow.ca">www.Lifeisnow.ca</a>
<b>Pain Treatment Topics.</b> Educational material for clinicians, patients and families. Links to resources on many other sites. Comprehensive section on pain assessment tools.	<a href="http://www.pain-topics.org">www.pain-topics.org</a>
<b>Pain.com.</b> Educational modules and articles for clinicians.	<a href="http://www.pain.com">www.pain.com</a>
<b>PainAction.</b> Educational material for patients. Includes self-management tools. Integrated with clinician educational site PainEDU.com .	<a href="http://www.painaction.com">www.painaction.com</a>
<b>PainDoctor.com.</b> Educational material for patients and families.	<a href="http://www.paindoctor.com">www.paindoctor.com</a>
<b>PainEDU.org.</b> Educational material for clinicians and educators. Includes downloadable PowerPoint lectures. Integrated with patient education site PainAction.	<a href="http://www.painedu.org">www.painedu.org</a>
<b>UMass Center for Mindfulness</b> listing of mindfulness based stress reduction programs:	<a href="http://w3.umassmed.edu/MBSR/public/searchmember.aspx">http://w3.umassmed.edu/MBSR/public/searchmember.aspx</a>

## Behavioral Approaches to Chronic Pain Management

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- January 31, 2012, from [http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/MTUS/MTUS\\_RegulationsGuidelines.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dwc/MTUS/MTUS_RegulationsGuidelines.html)
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