

# Patient satisfaction with pain management linked to nurse staffing

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Hospital patients' satisfaction with pain management is linked to nurse staffing, according to an article authored by nurse researchers from the Connell School of Nursing at Boston College and published in the journal *Pain Management Nursing*.

"Findings from this study support nurses as key contributors to patient satisfaction with pain control," said Connell School of Nursing (CSN) Associate Professor Judith Shindul-Rothschild, the lead author of the article, "Beyond the Pain Scale: Provider Communication and Staffing Predictive of Patients' Satisfaction with Pain Control."

Her co-authors are CSN Associate Professors Jane Flanagan and Catherine Read, and Kelly Stamp, formerly of Boston College and now with the University of North Carolina.

"The findings highlight the need for adequate numbers of nursing staff to achieve optimal patient satisfaction with pain management. In addition, having a prescriber (physician or nurse practitioner) available 24/7 to offer continuity of care is essential."

The research team looked at how hospital characteristics, staffing and nursing care factors were associated with [patient satisfaction](#) with pain control. The hospitals studied were in California, Massachusetts and New York and the data was from the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Health Care Providers Systems survey.

"Given the opioid crisis, pain management is front and center in health care today," added Shindul-Rothschild. "We need to think very critically of how we are managing pain, how we are communicating with patients, and how members of treatment teams are communicating with each other."

Teaching hospitals and a higher number of residents and interns were associated with poor [pain](#) control, according to the researchers.

"In addition to appropriate [nurse staffing](#), our study highlights that an essential component to improve patients' [satisfaction](#) with [pain management](#) is to promote more effective collaboration among medical trainees, hospitalists, and nurses," said Shindul-Rothschild.

**More information:** Judith Shindul-Rothschild et al, Beyond the Pain Scale: Provider Communication and Staffing Predictive of Patients' Satisfaction with Pain Control, *Pain Management Nursing* (2017). [DOI: 10.1016/j.pmn.2017.05.003](#)

Provided by Boston College

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