



**NATIONAL REGISTER**  
OF HEALTH SERVICE PSYCHOLOGISTS

# Pain

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# Pain

- **Nociceptive**
  - Pain sensors conduct signals of potentially damaging stimuli
  - Caused by stimulation of nociceptors signaling injury
- **Neuropathic**
  - **Central** (MS, stroke, spinal cord injury)
  - **Peripheral** (diabetes, metabolic conditions, shingles—herpes zoster and other infections, nutritional deficiencies, toxins, immune disorders and physical trauma to nerve)

# Pain

- **Acute**
  - Mobilizing the sympathetic branch of the ANS - less “habituation”
- **Chronic – with & without demonstrated physical pathology**
  - **Less sympathetic arousal**
  - **Persists beyond healing** or longer than 6 months
  - **No well-defined neurological mechanism**
  - **May be categorized as a DSM V Somatic Symptom-Related Disorder**

# Pain

Severity	Neuropathic Pain	Nociceptive Pain
<b>+</b>	<b>TCAs &amp; SNRIs</b>	<b>NSAIDs (inflammatory)</b>
<b>+</b>	<b>Pregabalin or Gabapentin</b>	<b>Acetaminophen (not inflammatory)</b>
<b>++</b>	<b>Other anti-epileptics or Tramadol</b>	<b>TCAs or SNRIs</b>
<b>+++</b>	<b>Opioids</b>	<b>Opioids</b>

# Pain

Medication	Behavioral Side Effects - Common
<b>TCAs</b>	<b>Sedation, fatigue, urinary retention, dizziness</b>
<b>SNRIs</b>	<b>Insomnia, dizziness, somnolence, fatigue, gastrointestinal complaints</b>
<b>Gabapentin - Pregabilin</b>	<b>Dizziness, somnolence, ataxia, fatigue</b>
<b>Tramadol</b>	<b>Dizziness, somnolence</b>
<b>Opiates</b>	<b>Somnolence, constipation, dizziness, dysphoria, euphoria</b>

# Tools for Assessment and Tracking

- **EMR (Electronic Medical Record) Based**
  - **Vital Signs – Pain Scale, BMI**
- **Tools and Questionnaires – Assessing Pain and Progress**
  - See references like: **Hunter, Goodie, Oordt and Dobmeyer (APA, 2010)**

# Most Common Goals

- **Increased Physical Activity**
  - **Independently Improves Pain Management**
  - **Reduce BMI (if Appropriate) – Add Dietary Change**
- **Stress Reduction** – CBT, Mindfulness, Breathing Exercises
- **Improved Mood** -> Reduction in Dysphoria (or Depression) & Anxiety
- **Improved Sleep**
- **Smoking Cessation & Reduced Substance Use** (if Appropriate)





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