

Priority Topic: CHRONIC DISEASE

Key Features:

Check out: [Guide to Chronic Care Management CFPC 2016](#)

1. In a patient with a [diagnosed chronic disease](#) who [presents with acute symptoms](#), diagnose:
 - [Acute complications](#) of the chronic disease (e.g., diabetic ketoacidosis).
 - [Acute exacerbations](#) of the disease (e.g., asthma exacerbation, acute arthritis).
 - A [new, unrelated condition](#)
2. Regularly [reassess adherence](#) (compliance) to the treatment plan (including medications).
3. In patients with chronic disease:
 - a) Actively [inquire about pain](#).
 - b) Treat appropriately by:
 - [Titrating medication](#) to the patient's pain.
 - Taking into account [other treatments and conditions](#) (e.g., watching for interactions).
 - [Considering non-pharmacologic treatment](#) and adjuvant therapies.

What you should study: see also Priority Topic Palliative Care

- ✓ Pharmacological Management of Cancer Pain RCP 2018
- ✓ Opioids for Chronic Non-Cancer Pain CMAJ 2017
- ✓ Opioid-Induced Constipation BMJ Infographic 2017
- ✓ Acute Pain Management AAFP 2013
- ✓ Chronic Pain and Opioid Misuse AAFP 2017
- ✓ NSAID Prescribing Precautions AAFP 2009

4. In patients with chronic disease, actively **inquire about**:

- The **psychological impact** of diagnosis and treatment.
- **Functional impairment**.
- Underlying **depression or risk of suicide**.
- Underlying **substance abuse**.

What you should study: **suicide risk if exceptionally high in single men >65 with multiple medical co-morbidities

- ✓ Depression in Chronic Disease 2001
- ✓ Collaborative Care for Depression in Chronic Disease NEJM 2016

5. Given a **non-compliant patient**, explore the **reasons why**, with a view to improving future adherence to the treatment plan.

What you should study:

- ✓ Motivational Interviewing AAFP 2011
- ✓ Promoting Self-Management AAFP 2009