

Table 4-5: JCAHO Pain Standards

- Recognize the right of patients to appropriate assessment and management of pain.
- Assess the existence and, if so, the nature and intensity of pain in all patients.
- Record the results of the assessment in a way that facilitates regular reassessment and follow-up.
- Determine and assure staff competency in pain assessment and management, and address pain assessment and management in the orientation of all new staff.
- Establish policies and procedures which support the appropriate prescription or ordering of effective pain medications.
- Educate patients and their families about effective pain management; and address patient needs for symptom management in the discharge planning process.

Sources: JCAHO Pain Standards. [www.jcaho.org/standard/pm\\_hap.html](http://www.jcaho.org/standard/pm_hap.html). Also, HRSA. [www.hrsa.gov](http://www.hrsa.gov).