

# FACT SHEET

## Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force Report

The experience of pain is a national public health problem with profound physical, emotional, and societal costs

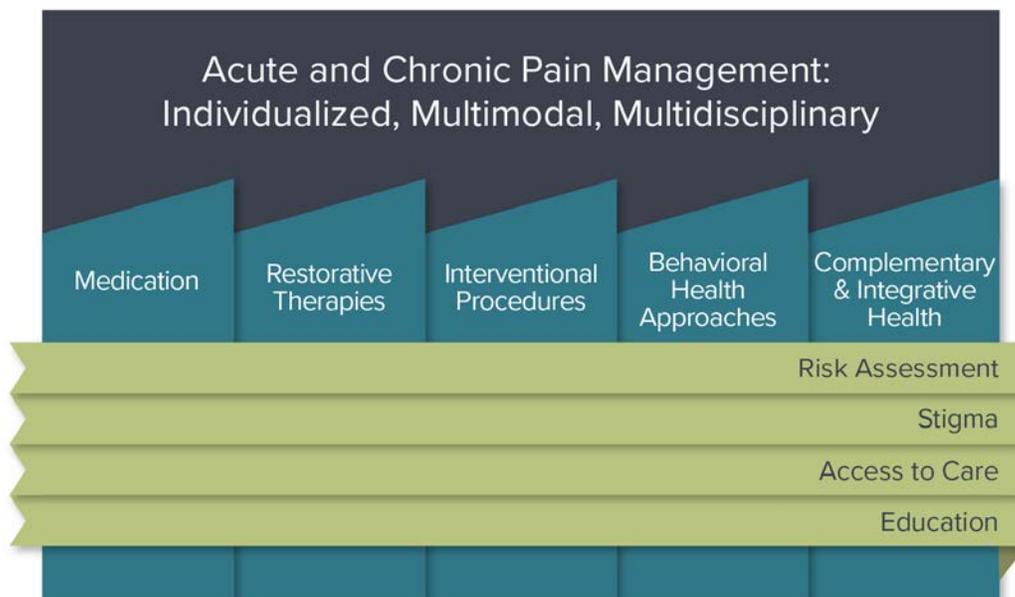
- 50 million adults throughout the United States experience chronic daily pain
- 19.6 million adults experience high-impact chronic pain interfering with daily life or work activities
- The cost of pain to our nation is estimated between \$560 billion and \$635 billion annually

### About the Report

The Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force Report identifies gaps and inconsistencies in pain management and offers recommendations for improving pain management best practices. To improve the lives of patients living with acute and chronic pain, the Task Force emphasizes the importance of:

- Individualized, patient-centered care fostering a therapeutic alliance between the patient and clinician
- Multidisciplinary approaches utilizing one or more treatment modalities and the biopsychosocial model to pain care
- Consideration of special patient populations, as well as comorbid conditions that can accompany complex pain conditions

The Task Force's recommendations span five broad treatment approaches to pain management: **Medication, Restorative Therapies, Interventional Procedures, Behavioral Health Approaches, and Complementary and Integrative Health**, that are reinforced by four cross-cutting themes critical to all treatment approaches: **Risk Assessment, Stigma, Access to Care, and Education**. The Report also discusses the role of the 2016 Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

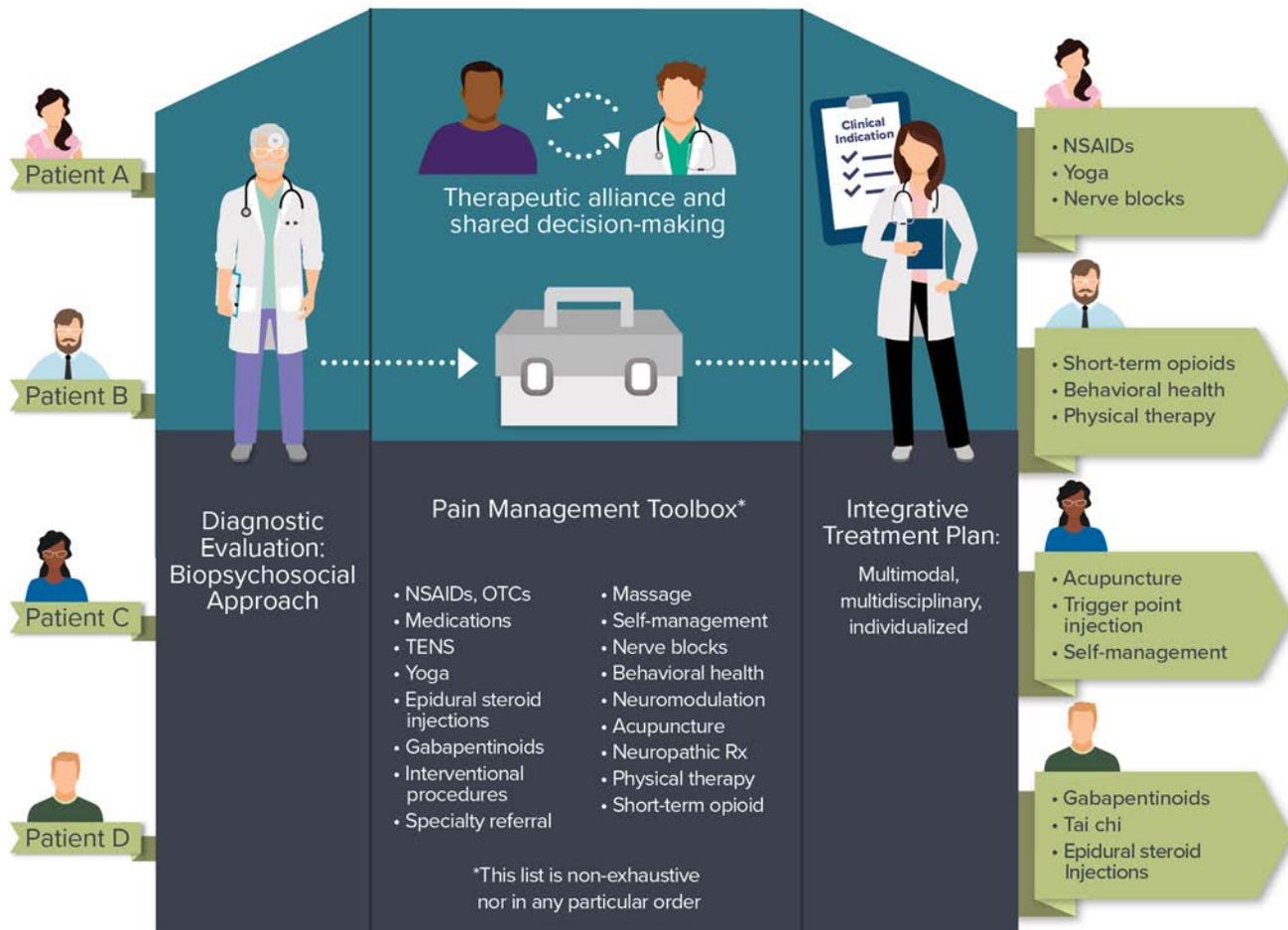


**Acute and Chronic Pain Management Consists of Five Treatment Approaches Informed by Four Critical Topics**

# Pain Management Best Practices Inter-Agency Task Force Report

## About the Task Force

- In accordance with mandates put forth by the 2016 Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA), the Task Force was convened to address acute and chronic pain in light of the ongoing opioid crisis, with specific legislation requiring the Task Force to identify gaps, inconsistencies, and updates and to make recommendations for improving best practices for the management of acute and chronic pain
- The Task Force, which includes members from non-Federal and Federal agencies, has expertise across a range of areas relevant to acute and chronic pain management, including patient advocacy, mental health, substance use, primary care, pharmacy, toxicology, surgery, dentistry, and emergency medicine



**Individualized Patient Care Consists of Diagnostic Evaluation That Results in an Integrative Treatment Plan That Includes All Necessary Treatment Options**

The Pain Management Best Practices Report was informed by engagement with stakeholders during Task Force meetings, review and analysis of over 9,000 public comments, and testimonials from patients with acute and chronic pain. During the CARA-mandated 90-day public comment period, over 165 medical organizations submitted letters of support and constructive feedback to the Task Force.

For more information, visit the Task Force website: <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/advisory-committees/pain/index.html>  
 Final report link: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pmtf-final-report-2019-05-23.pdf>