

# Collaboration between Surgeons and Pain Management

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# DISCLOSURES

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- Sandy Christiansen, MD, has had a financial agreement or affiliation with the following commercial interest in the form of Research:Avanos

# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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- Describe the roles of the surgeon and pain management physician
- Examine qualities of a collaborative relationship
- Negotiate challenges to improve collaboration

# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES - SURGEON

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- Spine Surgery
  - Typically Neurosurgery or Orthopedic trained
  - Examines, diagnoses, treats, and performs surgeries for patients with disorders, malformations, diseases, and injuries to the musculoskeletal system



# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES – PAIN MANAGEMENT

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- Pain Management
  - Physicians and APPs with diverse backgrounds of training including Anesthesiology, Physiatry, Neurology, Family Medicine, Emergency Medicine, among others
  - Diagnoses and treat patients with pain, such as acute, chronic or cancer pain
  - May prescribe medicine and/or employ interventional techniques, such as injections or implants

# WHAT MAKES A WORK RELATIONSHIP SUCCESSFUL?

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# 7 CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL INTERDISCIPLINARY PRACTICE

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- Trust
- Diversity
- Mindfulness
- Interrelatedness
- Respect
- Varied interaction
- Effective communication





# TRUST, DIVERSITY, MINDFULNESS, INTERRELATEDNESS

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- **Trust**

- Allows others to complete their work without unnecessary oversight
- Feeling comfortable discussing successes and failures

- **Diversity**

- Including those with different backgrounds and perspectives
- Encouraging people to share their opinions

- **Mindfulness**

- Being open to new ideas
- Talking freely about what is and is not working in the practice
- Adjusting routines in response to current situations

- **Interrelatedness**

- Being attentive to current tasks as well as larger goals
- Being aware of individual roles and how they affects other functions/people



# RESPECT, VARIED INTERACTION, EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

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- **Respect**

- Being considerate, honest and tactful
- Valuing others' opinions

- **Varied Interaction**

- Understanding the importance of both social and task-related relationship
- Encouraging people to pursue activities outside of work

- **Effective Communication**

- Understanding when certain methods of communication are more appropriate and timely than others
- Use face-to-face meetings for more sensitive matters
- Using email for routine matters



# NAVIGATING CHALLENGES

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# POSSIBLE CHALLENGES IN SURGEON AND PAIN MANAGEMENT RELATIONSHIPS

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- Determining appropriate timing of the referral – when failed conservative therapies?
- What interventional therapies will the surgeons do? Pain management?
- Managing opioid prescribing – who does it?



# TIPS FOR RESOLVING CONFLICT

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- Establish open communication
- Attack the problem, not the person
- Define acceptable and unacceptable behavior
- View conflict as an opportunity for growth
- Ensure a strong team culture

# QUESTIONS?

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