Managing pain can positively impact opioid stewardship and QIP psychotropic reporting

An enhancement in pain practices and increase in frequency of pain assessments has led to more appropriate use of medications prescribed for pain and behaviours.

Synovum Care Wynyard is a 70-bed residential aged care facility in North West Tasmania. As part of their vision to provide best practice solutions to manage their residents' complex needs, the Synovum Care team introduced two cutting-edge technology platforms:

1. PainChek's AI enabled pain assessment app to strengthen objectivity and consistency for assessing pain for those residents who can no longer reliably self-report their pain.
2. BESTMED's end-to-end Medication Management Solution maximising consumer safety through connected medication software.

Once staff were confident using both software platforms, the Synovum team embarked on a continuous improvement (CI) program with the overarching goal to elevate their pain practices to improve the outcomes for residents in their care.

Several initiatives were implemented to support the above goal, including:



Introduction of Pain Insights: Increasing the frequency of pain assessments for a clearer view of each resident's pain profile, combined with trending their pain scores accurately over time



Ensuring Pain Assessment Objectivity and Consistency: Supporting clinicians to use PainChek's automated facial analysis for observational pain assessments to strengthen consistency of pain ratings across multiple assessors



Bringing Pain and Medication to the Forefront: Embedding pain and medication reviews as an integral component of 'Resident of the day' and care plan reviews.

PainChek® is trusted by over 1,800 care providers worldwide, with more than 10 million digital pain assessments conducted to date.

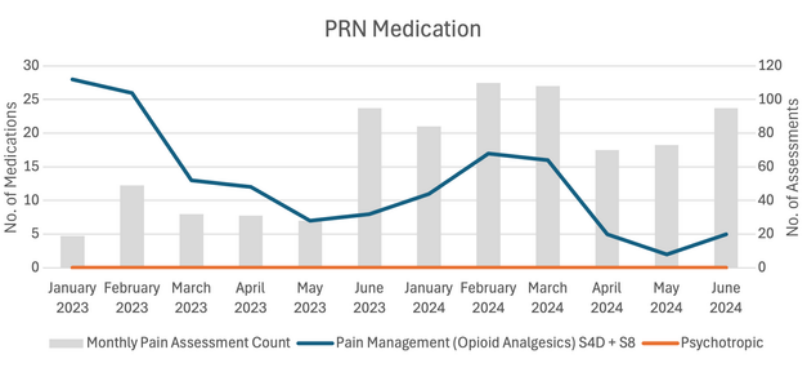
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PainChek™ Intelligent Pain Assessment

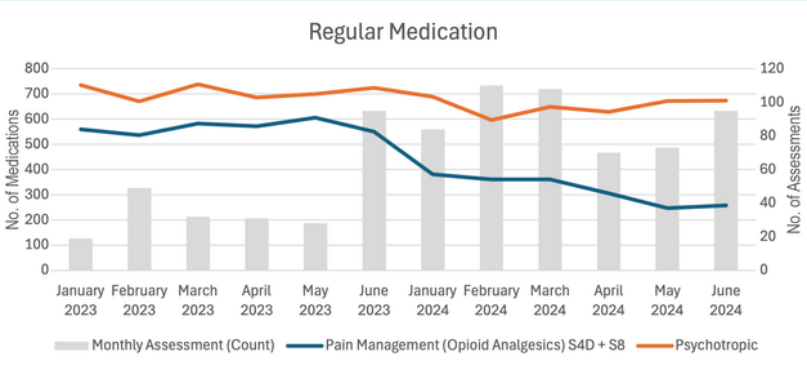
BESTMED

Results of the CI program across 6 months, monthly pain assessments increased by 500%.

This was associated with an **82% reduction in PRN** (as-needed) opioid administration.



Over the same period there was a **54% reduction** in regular opioid analgesic use, and an **8% reduction** in regular psychotropic medication administration.



*Data collected over two 6-month periods, covering January-June in 2023 (pre-CI program) and 2024 (post-CI program).

Hear what staff at Synovum Care Wynyard had to say...



"Easily accessible system that flows through to electronic documentation systems like BESTMED so you can see trends and patterns — Yvonne Hunter, General Manager

"Combining PainChek and BESTMED data helps validate the effectiveness of PRN medication for better clinical decision making — Karen Panzich, Clinical Nurse

"PainChek is a good tool for taking away any bias in identifying pain — Sarah Panzich, Registered Nurse

"PainChek has been a game changer in pain management for people with dementia — Yvonne Hunter, General Manager

Pictured: Karen Panzich – Clinical Nurse, Yvonne Hunter – General Manager, and Sarah Panzich – Registered Nurse from Synovum Care Wynyard.