

FAST FACTS: Music

MUSIC therapy: Listening to (or playing) music as a form of enjoyable distraction.

✓ **Your loved one may enjoy:**

- Listening to their favorite type of music
- Singing hymns or other favorite songs
- Listening to instrumental or harp music
- Playing piano, guitar, or other instruments
- Dancing
- Watching children playing instruments or singing

✓ **How Does it Work?**

- Research indicates that listening to your preferred style of music can:
 1. Reduce pain
 2. Lower blood pressure, heart rate, and respiratory rate

✓ **What Can you Do?**

- Discuss with your loved one their music preferences and experiences with music.
- Advocate for your loved one to have access to the items or opportunities necessary for using their preferred music as a nondrug pain management.
- Assist your loved one to gather the needed equipment (i.e. device to listen to music/head phones) and a variety of music options they enjoy.
- Set up the musical equipment as needed for your loved one prior to the session.
- Ask your loved one prior to beginning each session what their pain/tension level is on a 0-10 pain scale and do this again at the end of the music session.
- Document pain ratings so you can share with your loved one's healthcare team.

✓ **What Else You Should Do:**

- Consider using a [Pain Diary](#) to note important information useful to the provider on a regular basis.
- Encourage your loved one to try a non-drug treatment and document the impact on their pain in their Pain Diary.



Revised May 2019

Reference

Adapted from: 1. Fouladbakhsh, J.M., et al., Nondrug therapies for pain management among rural older adults. *Pain Manag Nurs*, 2011. 12(2): p. 70-81. 2. The Nursing Home Pain Management Algorithm Clinical Trial, R01 NR009100, 7/1/05 – 4/30/10; Mary Ersek (PI) Used with permission of Mary Ersek and HPNA (2009).

Hsu HF, et al. The effect of music interventions on chronic pain experienced by older adults: a systematic review. *J Nurs Scholars* 2022;54(1):64-71.