



# CHRONIC PAIN CARE SCHOOL

**1 Introduction and How We Sense Pain:** Presentation of an overview of topics covered in Chronic Pain Care School, with special emphasis on how the body perceives and controls pain sensations (pain physiology).

**October 24, 2016**

**2 Pain Related Medicines:** This is a discussion about pain medications. It includes: goals of good pain management, good medications practices, and a review of the pain management agreement. Patient education on the proper (rational and safe) use of medications and treatment compliance. Non pharmacological modalities (methods) for pain relief are presented. **October 31, 2016**

**3 Myths About Chronic Pain:** Discover the myths about chronic pain and how negative thinking can influence your pain levels. Learn how to identify the styles of negative thinking and develop strategies to change these thoughts. **November 7, 2016**

**4 Thinking and Chronic Pain:** A psychologist will discuss how attitudes, beliefs, and values can impact pain perceptions, and techniques to restructure the mind from focusing entirely upon pain. The session will conclude with progressive relaxation training. **November 14, 2016**

**5 Communication and Chronic Pain:** Effective communication about pain (how to talk about it with providers and family/friends), becoming their own advocate/empowering an active role in treatment, and finish with a visualization exercise to continue relaxation training. **November 21, 2016**

**6 Complementary & Alternative Medicine:** This lecture is an introduction to Complimentary and Alternative treatments that are commonly used in the treatment of chronic pain conditions. Emphasis is placed on the explanation of available VA treatments including chiropractic, acupuncture, music therapy, and biofeedback. **November 28, 2016**

**7 Exercise for Pain Patients:** The Chronic Pain & Physical Activity module reviews the importance of posture and proper body mechanics with daily activities. It also includes education on daily exercise and stretching as well as the services available at the VA for someone with chronic pain. **December 5, 2016**

**8 Nutrition and Pain:** Discussion with a Registered Dietitian about the role of diet and inflammation control with focus on achieving and maintaining a healthy weight, emerging anti-inflammatory foods and review of potentially beneficial dietary supplements. **December 12, 2016**

**9 Sleep and Pain:** Techniques and medicines that can help with sleep and a review of compounds that can disrupt sleep; healthy practices for patients in pain to help sleep better without medicines. **December 19, 2016**

**10 Spirituality in Pain Management:** A clinically trained chaplain discusses various aspects of spirituality as a means of managing chronic pain. Topics include:

- Defining & Understanding Spirituality
- The Role of Attitude in Pain Management
- Understanding Lament
- Reframing

**January 9, 2017**

VA Illiana Health Care System  
Classes are held every Monday  
11AM till Noon (CST) Bldg 98 Room 3006 Via at  
CBOCS Bridge number 99000260161