

Canadian Chiropractic Guideline Initiative





### **Sleep and Pain**

The following information is for individuals experiencing sleep difficulties and musculoskeletal pain



# How does sleep affect pain?

- Sleep problems can increase pain
- Sleep problems affect other physical and mental health issues (e.g., cardiovascular disease, depression, anxiety)

## How do I know if I have a sleep problem?

- Symptoms may include difficulty falling asleep, not feeling well-rested, daytime sleepiness, waking up during the night, early morning awakenings
- Your healthcare provider may <u>screen</u> you for sleep problems

### What can I do?

To help speed up recovery:

- Participate in your care with your healthcare provider
- Continue participating in dayto-day activities as tolerated

## Potential treatment options to discuss with your healthcare provider

- Sleep hygiene education
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) for Insomnia\*
- Further evaluation by your physician

Contact your healthcare provider if you experience any of the following

- Symptoms of depression, irritability, or anxiety
- Excessive daytime sleepiness
- Loud snoring
- Abrupt awakenings accompanied by gasping or choking
- Morning headache
- Difficulty concentrating during the day
- Hallucinations

\*Results may vary over time

Vitiello M.V., McCurry S.M., Shortreed S.M., et al. Cognitive-Behavioural Treatment for Comorbid Insomnia and Osteoarthritis Pain in Primary Care: The Lifestyles Randomized Controlled Trial. JAGS. 2013; 61(6): 947-956 and Smith M.T., Finan P.H., Buenaver L.F., et al. Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy for Insomnia in Knee Osteoarthritis: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Active Placebo-Controlled Clinical Trial. Arthritis Rheumatol. 2015; 67(5): pp 1221-1233.

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### Suggestions for Improving Sleep



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