



# *The role of Pain as indicator in hospital accreditation*

Guy Hans, MD, PhD, CMO

Antwerp University Hospital (UZA)

- Hospital accreditation requires standardized protocols for
  - Assessment and re-assessment of pain
  - In hospitalized patients as well as in ambulatory care
- Time consuming
  - Certainly re-assessment is often hard to complete on hospital wards
  - Amidst increased administrative burden (also linked to accreditation requirements)
- If patient is in pain then a more detailed pain evaluation is required
  - By whom? ... physician or nurse or both...
  - When?
  - How?

# Recommendations for policy (1)

- Education and training
  - More focus on pathophysiology of acute and chronic pain in nurse training
    - Morbidity and mortality linked to pain !
  - Medical training should focus more on painful syndromes and nociception-related co-morbidities
- Patient empowerment
  - Patients should participate more actively in their analgesic therapy, evaluating intensity of pain, requesting analgesics and re-assessment by caregivers

## Recommendations for policy (2)

- Hospital financing should include KPI on pain assessment
- Government agencies should invest in protocols and modalities to implement care pathways for pain assessment in all hospitals
  - Electronic patient records
  - Technical modalities for (semi-)objective pain assessment
  - Protocols and guidelines for pain therapy