Planning and Implementation

Nursing management involves the following actions to increase and maintain patient comfort:

- Recognition of pain and formulation of a nursing diagnosis
- Pharmacologic intervention
- Nonpharmacologic intervention
- Monitoring and documenting the effectiveness of pain control measures to provide optimal comfort
- Patient education
### Pain Assessment and Management

The accompanying nursing care plan summarizes nursing care for the child with postoperative pain.

#### Pharmacologic Intervention

Give analgesics as ordered by the physician, ensuring that the dose is appropriate for the child’s weight. When administering an opioid by intravenous infusion or PCA, monitor the flow rate and the site for infiltration. Make sure analgesic antagonists such as naloxone are available should complications develop. Naloxone may be used to treat respiratory depression caused by an opioid drug at a dose and slow infusion rate that does not reverse the pain control effects of the narcotic. A continuous infusion or repeated doses may be needed for severe overdoses.