

## What can I do to improve my pain besides taking medication?

Pain affects our minds as well as our bodies. Sometimes pain can be so severe that it interferes with our ability to do normal daily activities, like washing the dishes. It can also cause us to feel down or sad. Select a few things from the list that you can try the next time you're in pain to keep it from interfering with your life.

What can I do to promote comfort and relaxation?	How can I distract myself?
□ Take slow, deep breaths	□ Read a book
□ Listen to music or other relaxing sounds	Color a picture
□ Think of a happy memory or use guided imagery	□ Watch TV or a movie
with the help of a friend or a YouTube video	□ Talk to a friend
□ Ask a friend to give you a gentle massage	Do a puzzle
□ Reposition yourself	□ Listen to music
□ Stretch or go for a walk	Play with a pet
□ Take medications as prescribed	□ Anything else you like
□ Adjust your room temperature with a warm	to do that will take
blanket or fan	your mind off the pain
□ Adjust the lights or window blinds in your room	
□ Eat a healthy diet, drink enough water, and get	
plenty of sleep	
□ Let your family or friends know if you feel down	
What if I am still uncomfortable?	
Let your nurse or doctor know if your pain is still not controlled. They may have	
other suggestions for things you can do to relieve your pain.	

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