|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Red flags | Clinical features suggest serious underlying condition |
| Yellow flags | Psychosocial factors that predict ongoing disability (Not necessarily pain) including:Cognition and beliefs, emotions, behavioral issues, family issues, workplace issues and attitudes towards treatment  |
| Blue flags | Conditions in the workplace that may inhibit recovery, mainly divided into 4 groups: physical, psychological, social/managerial and workplace belief. E.g., High work demand and low control in work.  |
| Black Flags  | Organisation-level issues that may inhibit recovery, such as worker’s compensation issues or employer attitudes |
| Orange Flags  | Psychiatric issues , equivalent of red flags for mental health and psychological problems, including high level of distress, major perosonality disorders, posttraumatic stress disorders, drug/ alcohol addiction problems and clinical depression.  |

 |

Author:

Dr Sandy Lam Kit Ying

Associate Consultant

Dept of Anaesthesia

North District Hospital

Reference:

National Pain strategy, pain magament for all Australians, 2010

Claudia Schulz-Gibbins, Psychological evaluation of the patient with chronic pain. Chapter 13 Guide to pain management in low resource settings, IASP

Psychosocial flag systems, Occupational Health magazine, July, 2010