



Standards Procedure (Skill) Assessment / Screening Section

Pain Assessment and Documentation

Clinical Indications:

- Any patient with pain.

Definitions:

- Pain is an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue damage.
- Pain is subjective (whatever the patient says it is).

	MR	
B	EMT	B
A	AEMT	A
P	PARAMEDIC	P

Procedure:

- Initial and ongoing assessment of pain intensity and character is accomplished through the patient's self report.
- Pain should be assessed and documented in the PCR during initial assessment, before starting pain control treatment, and with each set of vitals.
- Pain should be assessed using the appropriate approved scale.
- Three pain scales are available: the 0 – 10, the Wong - Baker "faces", and the FLACC.
 - 0 – 10 Scale: the most familiar scale used by EMS for rating pain with patients. It is primarily for adults and is based on the patient being able to express their perception of the pain as related to numbers. Avoid coaching the patient; simply ask them to rate their pain on a scale from 0 to 10, where 0 is no pain at all and 10 is the worst pain ever.
 - Wong – Baker "FACES" scale: this scale is primarily for use with pediatrics but may also be used with geriatrics or any patient with a language barrier. The faces correspond to numeric values from 0-10. This scale can be documented with the numeric value.



From Hockenberry MJ, Wilson D, Winkelstein ML: Wong's Essentials of Pediatric Nursing, ed. 7, St. Louis, 2005, p. 1259. Used with permission. Copyright, Mosby.

- FLACC scale: this scale has been validated for measuring pain in children with mild to severe cognitive impairment and in pre-verbal children (including infants).

CATEGORIES	SCORING		
	0	1	2
FACE	No particular expression or smile	Occasional grimace or frown, withdrawn, disinterested.	Frequent to constant quivering chin, clenched jaw.
LEGS	Normal position or relaxed.	Uneasy, restless, tense.	Kicking, or legs drawn up.
ACTIVITY	Lying quietly, normal position moves easily.	Squirming, shifting back and forth, tense.	Arched, rigid or jerking.
CRY	No cry, (awake or asleep)	Moans or whimpers; occasional complaint	Crying steadily, screams or sobs, frequent complaints.
CONSOLABILITY	Content, relaxed.	Reassured by occasional touching hugging or being talked to, distractable.	Difficulty to console or comfort

Certification Requirements:

- Maintain knowledge of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure. Assessment of this knowledge may be accomplished via quality assurance mechanisms, classroom demonstrations, skills stations, or other mechanisms as deemed appropriate by the local EMS System.