



Pain Management Pain Scale Determination Process

No Cognitive Impairment

If a person:



- Can verbalize



- Can self-report



- Has intact cognitive abilities

Use a self-reporting validated pain intensity scale, such as:

| **0–10 verbal or numeric scale**

OR

| **Verbal descriptor scale**

If a person:



- Can't verbalize



- Can self-report other than verbally



- Has intact cognitive abilities

Use a self-reporting validated pain intensity scale, such as:

| **Faces Pain Scale – Revised**

OR

| **Iowa Pain Thermometer – Revised**

Cognitive Impairment

If a person:



- Can't always verbalize



- Can't always self-report



- Has fluctuating cognitive abilities

Use a validated behavioral pain scale, such as:

| **A self-reporting pain scale that allows the person to describe the pain or point to an image.**

AND

| **Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia (PAINAD).**

If a person:



- Can't verbalize



- Can't self-report



- Has cognitive disabilities

Use a validated behavioral pain scale, such as:

| **Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia (PAINAD).**

OR

| **Pain Assessment Checklist for Seniors with Limited Ability to Communicate (PACSLAC-II)®.**