

Pain Assessment in the Communicatively Impaired (PACI) Tool

Instructions:

Place a check mark beside each behaviour if you observe it as being present. Compare the pattern of behaviours observed over time to screen for pain or after each intervention for pain is initiated or changed.

Behaviour	Present
Facial expressions:	
• Brow lower	
• Eyelid tighten	
• Cheek raise	
Vocal:	
• Sounds	
• Words (unsolicited)	
Body movements:	
• Guarding	
• Rubbing/touching	

Definitions:

Brow lower: eyebrow is lowered, eyebrows closer together, eyes may narrow, deep vertical wrinkles between the eyebrows

Eyelid Tighten: eyelids tighten, eye opening narrows, lower eyelid is raised, eyes may squint

Cheek Raise and Eyelid Compress: cheeks lift upwards, eye opening narrows, wrinkling of skin beneath the eye, may cause crow's feet or wrinkles at outer corners of eyes

Sounds: crying, moaning, groaning, not words

Words (unsolicited): words indicating pain: (e.g. "ouch", "that hurts"), do not include if in response to question "does this hurt?"

Guarding: to protect, pull away, cover up, draw back

Rubbing/touching: rub or hold or press a body area or forehead

References:

Kaasalainen, S., Stewart, N., Middleton, J., Knezacek, S., Hartley, T., Ife, C., & Robinson, L. (2011). Development and evaluation of the Pain Assessment in the Communicatively Impaired (PACI) tool: Part I. *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*, 17(8) 387-391.

Kaasalainen, S., Stewart, N., Middleton, J., Knezacek, S., Hartley, T., Ife, C., & Robinson, L. (2011). Development and evaluation of the Pain Assessment in the Communicatively Impaired (PACI) tool: Part II. *International Journal of Palliative Nursing*, 17(9) 431-438.