

## Faces Pain Scale-Revised (FPS-R) Instructions

The Faces Pain Scale is a pain intensity rating scale useful for all older adults, including those with mild to moderate cognitive impairment. Some older adults will find this tool easy to use and may prefer it over a Numerical Rating Scale. This scale requires either the verbal ability or the ability to point to the image on the scale that most closely represents their pain.

**Purpose:** To assess pain intensity in persons who are able to self-report\* but are unable to use a numeric rating scale (NRS). Some studies show African Americans and Asians prefer the Faces Pain Scale.

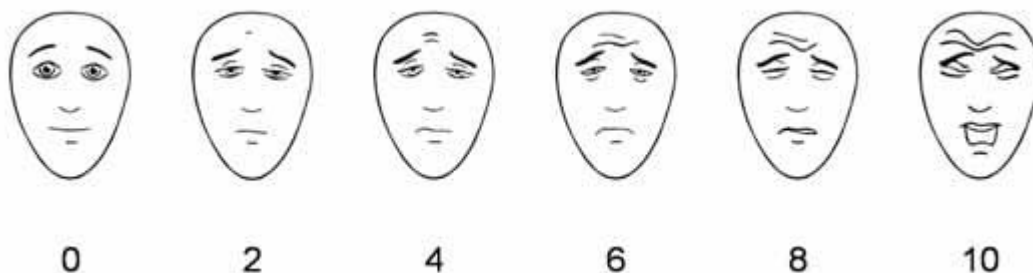
**How to Use:** Say to the older adult - "I'd like you to tell me about the intensity of any pain you are having. I'm going to show you some pictures of some faces. The faces show how much pain or discomfort one is feeling. The face on the left shows no pain. Each face shows an increasing amount of pain up to the last face that shows the worst pain possible. Point to the face that shows how your pain is right now."

Score the chosen face 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, or 10, counting left to right, so '0' = 'no pain' and '10' = 'worst pain possible.' The scoring numbers are for clinician use only. Do not show the numbers to the person being assessed.

**Documentation:** Document/record all scores in a location that is readily accessible by other health care providers.

\*Self-report of pain is defined as the ability to indicate presence and/or severity of pain verbally, in writing, or by other means such as finger span, pointing, head movement, or blinking eyes to answer yes or no questions.

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Revised July 2023

### References

Used with permission from IASP. For clinical, educational, or research purposes, use of the FPS-R is free of charge, and permission for use is not needed, provided that the scale is not modified or altered in any way. <https://www.iasp-pain.org/Education/Content.aspx?ItemNumber=1519&navItemNumber=577>.

Ware, L. J., Epps, C. D., Herr, K., & Packard, A. (2006). Evaluation of the Revised Faces Pain Scale, Verbal Descriptor Scale, Numeric Rating Scale, and Iowa Pain Thermometer in Older Minority Adults. *Pain Management Nursing*, 7, 117-125. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.pmn.2006.06.005>.