

## PAIN SCALES FOR ASSESSING PAIN INTENSITY

Use copies of pain scales that are large enough for older patients to see comfortably (14-point font or larger).

### Faces Pain Scale

Place an X under the face that best represents the severity or intensity of your pain right now.



Source: Reprinted from *Pain* 41(2), Bien D, Reeve R, Champion G, et al. The Faces Pain Scale for the self-assessment of the severity of pain experienced by children: development and initial validation, and preliminary investigation for ratio scale properties. 139–150, Copyright 1990, with permission from Elsevier Science.

### 0–10 Numeric Rating Scales

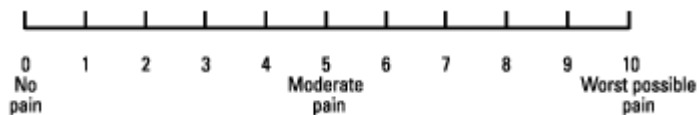
#### Verbal:

On a scale of 0–10, with 0 being no pain and 10 being the most intense pain imaginable, what would you rate the severity or intensity of your pain right now? \_\_\_\_\_

Source: Keela Herr, 1999.

#### Visual:

Circle the number that best represents the severity of intensity of your pain right now.



Source: Carr DB, Jacox AK, Chapman CR, et al. *Acute Pain Management: Operative Medical Procedures and Trauma*. Clinical Practice Guideline No. 1. Rockville, MD: AHCPR, Public Health Service, US Dept of Health and Human Services; February 1992. AHCPR Publication No. 92-0032.

## Verbal Descriptor Scale

Place an X beside the words that best describe the severity or intensity of your pain right now.  
Mark one set of words.

—The Most Intense Pain Imaginable

—Very Severe Pain

—Severe Pain

—Moderate Pain

—Mild Pain

—Slight Pain

—No Pain

Source: Keela Herr, 1999.

## Reference

AGS Panel on Persistent Pain in Older Persons. The management of persistent pain in older persons. *J Am Geriatr Soc.* 2002; 50 (6, Suppl): S205–S224.