Choosing a Pain Intensity Rating Tool

Pediatric Pain Assessment
Choosing the Right Scale

- Preemie to 3 months
  - NPASS

- 3 Months to 3 Years, Nonverbal, or Cognitive Impairment
  - r-FLACC

- 3 Years to 7 Years
  - FACES

- > 7 Years old
  - NUMERIC FACES
  - r-FLACC
Choosing a Pain Intensity Rating Tool

Adult Pain Assessment
Choosing the Right Scale

General Care, Verbal
Self-report:
Numeric Scale –or-
Verbal Scale –or-
Functional Scale

General Care, Nonverbal
Behavioral
Checklist of nonverbal
indicators
PAINAD (dementia)

Critical Care
Self-report:
Numeric –or-
Verbal – or –
Faces scale (revised)

Critical Care
Behavioral
ccPOT or ANPS
Paralyzed/Sedated
Assume Pain is Present
Choosing a Pain Intensity Rating Tool: Adult General Care Unit

1). Pain Present?

- YES: Assess pain nature, location & intensity as possible
  - Use Behavioral rating
    - Dementia?
      - YES: Use PAINAD
      - NO: Use Checklist of Nonverbal Indicators

- NO: Try Numeric rating
  - Easy, meaningful?
    - 2a): Try Verbal or Functional Rating scale
      - NO: Use Checklist of Nonverbal Indicators
      - YES: Record Score
    - 2b): Yes: Easy, meaningful?
      - YES: Record Score
      - NO: Use Checklist of Nonverbal Indicators

- NO pain, record “0” and periodically rescreen as indicated by change in condition or has procedure
Choosing a Pain Intensity Rating Tool: Adult Critical Care Unit

1. Pain Present?
   - YES: Assess pain nature, location & intensity as possible
   - NO pain, record “0” and periodically rescreen as indicated by change in condition or has procedure

2. Verbal Patient or alert & able to point
   - YES
     - Try Numeric rating
     - Easy, meaningful? (2a)
     - YES: Record Score
     - NO
   - NO
     - Try Verbal or r-FACES Rating scale
     - YES
       - Easy, meaningful? (2b)
       - YES: Record Score
     - NO: Critical Care Pain Observation Tool (in PACU or Neuro ICU use Adult Nonverbal Pain Scale)

3. Chemically paralyzed
   - YES: Assume Pain is Present (as appropriate)
   - NO