

Functional Pain Assessment Tool for Nurses

Assess what pain prevents, agree on a patient-defined function goal, and reassess benefit and harm after intervention. Do not use a pain number alone as an automatic medication threshold.

Patient name or ID _____	Date and time _____	Nurse and credentials _____	Unit or setting _____
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Reason ☐ Initial assessment ☐ Routine assessment ☐ Change in condition ☐ Before intervention ☐ Reassessment

PAIN PROFILE

Pain now 0 to 10 _____	Location and radiation _____
Worst past 24 hours _____	Onset course and pattern _____

Quality ☐ Aching ☐ Burning ☐ Cramping ☐ Electric or shooting ☐ Pressure ☐ Stabbing ☐ Throbbing ☐ Other _____

FUNCTIONAL IMPACT

Interference rating 0 = none and 10 = unable

Mobility or transfers	Self care	Sleep or rest	Therapy work or daily roles	Mood attention or social activity
____ / 10	____ / 10	____ / 10	____ / 10	____ / 10
Patient stated functional goal I want to be able to _____			Aggravating factors _____	
Relieving factors and prior response _____			Baseline or prior level of function _____	

OBSERVATION AND SAFETY

Observed or reported ☐ Guarding ☐ Grimacing ☐ Reduced movement ☐ Sleep disruption ☐ Limited participation ☐ None observed	Alertness or facility sedation score _____
New or unexpected findings ☐ Weakness or numbness ☐ Bowel or bladder change ☐ Fever ☐ Trauma ☐ Chest pain or dyspnea ☐ Acute neurologic change	Respiratory status RR ____ SpO2 ____% O2 _____
Treatment effects ☐ Nausea ☐ Constipation ☐ Dizziness ☐ Pruritus ☐ Confusion ☐ Other _____ ☐ None	Fall or mobility concern ☐ Yes ☐ No Details _____

Unable to self report ☐ No ☐ Yes - use facility-approved behavioral pain tool and document why: _____

INTERVENTION AND PLAN

Intervention ☐ Positioning ☐ Ice or heat if appropriate ☐ Relaxation or distraction ☐ Pacing or mobility ☐ Medication per order ☐ Education	Other or details _____
Expected function after intervention Patient will be able to _____	Planned reassessment Time _____ Method _____

REASSESSMENT

Date and time _____	Pain now ____ / 10	Function goal ☐ Met ☐ Partly met ☐ Not met	Function ☐ Better ☐ Same ☐ Worse
Benefit adverse effect balance and patient response _____		Next action education notification or escalation _____	

Escalate urgent or unexpected findings according to facility policy and professional scope. This resource supports education and structured clinical thinking. It does not replace assessment, clinical judgment, facility policy, professional scope of practice, or applicable law. Sources: [CDC Guideline](#) • [VA Pain Management](#) • [Joint Commission Pain FAQs](#)