

PAINAD Assessment Tool

Pain Assessment in Advanced Dementia • Large print nurse reference and scoring record

Use when reliable self report is not possible. Observe at rest and during movement or care when safe. Select one score in each row, then add the five scores.

Patient name or ID _____	Date _____	Time _____	Nurse initials _____
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Observation context ☐ At rest ☐ During movement ☐ During care ☐ Before intervention ☐ After intervention

Behavior	0	1	2	Score
Breathing independent of vocalization	Usual and unlabored	Intermittent effort or a brief period of faster breathing	Noisy or sustained effort; prolonged rapid breathing; Cheyne-Stokes pattern	_____
Negative vocalization	No negative sounds or speech	Occasional quiet moan or groan; low disapproving speech	Repeated distressed calls; loud moaning or groaning; crying	_____
Facial expression	Neutral or smiling	Sad, fearful, or frowning	Marked grimacing	_____
Body language	Relaxed posture	Tension, restless pacing, or fidgeting	Rigid posture; clenched fists; knees drawn up; pushes or pulls away; strikes out	_____
Consolability	Comfortable without consoling	Settles with voice, touch, or distraction	Does not settle with reassurance, touch, or distraction	_____
PAINAD total ____ / 10		Change from prior score ☐ Lower ☐ Same ☐ Higher		Behavior change from usual baseline ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Unknown
Suspected pain location or trigger _____			Caregiver input or usual pain behavior _____	
Intervention and time _____			Response and reassessment plan _____	

Clinical use Attempt self report whenever possible. A PAINAD score reflects observed behaviors associated with pain; it is not a direct measure of pain intensity and should not be used alone as an automatic medication threshold. Compare with the person's usual behavior and consider nonpain causes such as delirium, fear, dyspnea, hunger, toileting needs, or infection.

This large print worksheet paraphrases PAINAD behavior cues for readability and is not the official validated form. Confirm the authorized PAINAD criteria and facility policy before clinical implementation. This resource does not replace assessment, clinical judgment, professional scope, or applicable law. Reference: Warden V, Hurley AC, Volicer L. J Am Med Dir Assoc. 2003;4:9-15. [Authorized PAINAD resource](#)