

## Pain Assessment Checklist for Seniors with Limited Ability to Communicate (PACSLAC)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME ASSESSED: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF PATIENT/RESIDENT: \_\_\_\_\_

**PURPOSE:** This checklist is used to assess pain in patients/residents who have dementia and are unable to communicate verbally.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Indicate with a checkmark, which of the items on the PACSLAC occurred during the period of interest.  
Scoring the Sub-Scales is derived by counting the checkmarks in each column.  
To generate a Total Pain Score sum all four Sub-Scale totals.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sub-scale Scores:

Facial Expressions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Activity/Body Movement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social/Personality Mood	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Total Checklist Score</b>	_____

\* "Other" sub-scale includes physiological changes, eating and sleeping changes and vocal behaviours.

This version of the scale does not include the items "sitting and rocking", "quiet/withdrawn", and "vacant blank stare" as these were not found to be useful in discriminating pain from non-pain states.

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**Note on Scoring:** There is no recommended cut off score at this time. Scores all depend on the person and context (e.g., whether they are assessed over a shift or during a transfer). The authors recommend an individualized approach whereby a baseline series of scores is collected for each resident and then the nurse observes deviations from the score (also examining whether pain treatments result in decline in scores).  
*Email correspondence from Thomas Hadjistavropoulos May 28, 2007*

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<b>Facial Expressions</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Activity/Body Movement</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Social/Personality/Mood</b>	<b>Present</b>
Grimacing		Decreased activity		Upset	
Sad Look		Refusing medications		Agitated	
Tighter face		Moving slow		Cranky/Irritable	
Dirty look		Impulsive Behaviour (e.g., repetitive movements)		Frustrated	
Change in eyes (squinting, dull, bright, increased movement)		Uncooperative/Resistant to care		<b>Other*</b>	
Frowning		Guarding sore area		Pale Face	
Pain expression		Touching/holding sore area		Flushed, red face	
Grim face		Limping		Teary eyed	
Clenching teeth		Clenched fist		Sweating	
Wincing		Going into foetal position		Shaking/Trembling	
Opening mouth		Stiff/Rigid		Cold & clammy	
Creasing forehead		<b>Social/Personality/Mood</b>		Changes in sleep (please circle):	
Screwing up nose		Physical aggression (e.g., pushing people and/or objects, scratching others, hitting others, striking, kicking)		Decreased sleep or	
<b>Activity/Body Movement</b>		Verbal aggression		Increased sleep during day	
Fidgeting		Not wanting to be touched		Changes in Appetite (please	
Pulling Away		Not allowing people near		Decreased appetite or	
Flinching		Angry/Mad		Increased appetite	
Restless		Throwing things		Screaming/Yelling	
Pacing		Increased confusion		Calling out (i.e. for help)	
Wandering		Anxious		Crying	
Trying to leave				A specific sound or vocalisation	
Refusing to move				For pain 'ow', ouch'	
Thrashing				Moaning and groaning	
				Mumbling	
				Grunting	

