



Amherst Fire District Procedure

Pain Assessment

Clinical Indications:

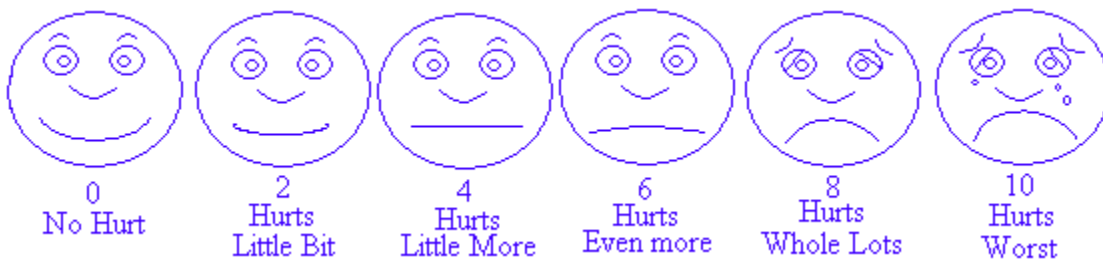
- Any patient with pain.

Definitions:

- Pain is an unpleasant sensory and emotional experience associated with actual or potential tissue, bone, organ damage.
- Pain is subjective (whatever the patient says it is).
- Initial and ongoing assessment of pain intensity and character is accomplished through the patient's self-report.

Procedure:

1. Pain should be assessed and documented:
 - a. during initial assessment:
 - b. before starting pain control treatment
 - c. with each set of vitals.
 - d. using an appropriate approved scale.
2. Two pain scales are available:
 - a. **0-10 Scale**: the most familiar scale used for rating pain and is primarily for adults to express their perception of the pain as related to numbers. Avoid coaching the patient; simply ask them to rate their pain on a scale from 0-10 where 0 is no pain at all and 10 is the worst pain ever.
 - b. **Wong-Baker "faces" scale**: this scale is primarily for use with pediatrics but may also be used with geriatrics or any patient with a language barrier. The faces correspond to numeric values from 0-10. This scale can be documented with the numeric value or the textual pain description.



Certification Requirements:

- Successfully complete an annual skill evaluation inclusive of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure.