

Visual Analog Scale

Instructions: Show and read the pain scale to the resident. Explain to the resident to place a mark along the line to indicate their current pain level. Wait for a verbal reply or for the resident to mark their current level of pain. Repeat the directions if the resident is having difficulty; use words other than "pain": aching, cramping, sore, uncomfortable, stiff, dull, pressure, burning, shooting. If the resident does not like it or understand it, switch to another pain rating scale. Always use the same scale for each follow-up assessment. Document the scale used as the Visual Analog Scale.

The Worst Imaginable Pain



No Pain