

NEONATAL/INFANT PAIN SCALE (NIPS)

(Recommended for children less than 1 year old) - A score greater than 3 indicates pain.

Pain Assessment		Score
Facial Expression 0 – Relaxed muscles 1 – Grimace	Restful face, neutral expression Tight facial muscles; furrowed brow, chin, jaw, (negative facial expression – nose, mouth and brow)	
Cry 0 – No Cry 1 – Whimper 2 – Vigorous Cry	Quiet, not crying Mild moaning, intermittent Loud scream; rising, shrill, continuous (Note: Silent cry may be scored if baby is intubated as evidenced by obvious mouth and facial movement.)	
Breathing Patterns 0 – Relaxed 1 – Change in Breathing	Usual pattern for this infant Indrawing, irregular, faster than usual; gagging; breath holding	
Arms 0 – Relaxed/Restrained 1 – Flexed/Extended	No muscular rigidity; occasional random movements of arms Tense, straight legs; rigid and/or rapid extension, flexion	
Legs 0 – Relaxed/Restrained 1 – Flexed/Extended	No muscular rigidity; occasional random leg movement Tense, straight legs; rigid and/or rapid extension, flexion	
State of Arousal 0 – Sleeping/Awake 1 – Fussy	Quiet, peaceful sleeping or alert random leg movement Alert, restless, and thrashing	