

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
WARREN GRANT MAGNUSON CLINICAL CENTER

PAIN INTENSITY INSTRUMENTS
JULY 2003

CRIES Pain Scale (page 1 of 1)

DATE/TIME						
Crying - Characteristic cry of pain is high pitched. 0 – No cry or cry that is not high-pitched 1 - Cry high pitched but baby is easily consolable 2 - Cry high pitched but baby is inconsolable						
Requires O₂ for SaO₂ < 95% - Babies experiencing pain manifest decreased oxygenation. Consider other causes of hypoxemia, e.g., oversedation, atelectasis, pneumothorax) 0 – No oxygen required 1 – < 30% oxygen required 2 – > 30% oxygen required						
Increased vital signs (BP* and HR*) - Take BP last as this may awaken child making other assessments difficult 0 – Both HR and BP unchanged or less than baseline 1 – HR or BP increased but increase in < 20% of baseline 2 – HR or BP is increased > 20% over baseline.						
Expression - The facial expression most often associated with pain is a grimace. A grimace may be characterized by brow lowering, eyes squeezed shut, deepening naso-labial furrow, or open lips and mouth. 0 – No grimace present 1 – Grimace alone is present 2 – Grimace and non-cry vocalization grunt is present						
Sleepless - Scored based upon the infant's state during the hour preceding this recorded score. 0 – Child has been continuously asleep 1 – Child has awakened at frequent intervals 2 – Child has been awake constantly						
TOTAL SCORE						

* Use baseline preoperative parameters from a non-stressed period. Multiply baseline HR by 0.2 then add to baseline HR to determine the HR that is 20% over baseline. Do the same for BP and use the mean BP.

Indications: For neonates (0 – 6 months)

Instructions:

Each of the five (5) categories is scored from 0-2, which results in a total score between 0 and 10. The interdisciplinary team in collaboration with the patient/family (if appropriate), can determine appropriate interventions in response to CRIES Scale scores.

Reference

Krechel, SW & Bildner, J. (1995). CRIES: a new neonatal postoperative pain measurement score – initial testing of validity and reliability. Paediatric Anaesthesia, 5: 53-61.