

CHECKLIST OF NONVERBAL PAIN INDICATORS (CNPI)

For: Adults who are nonverbal; designed to measure pain behaviors in cognitively impaired older adults.

Scoring: Score each item both on movement and at rest. Score “0” if the behavior was not observed. Score “1” if the behavior occurred even briefly. Subtotal the scores for the movement column and the at rest column. Add them together for a total score. There are no clear cut-off scores to indicate severity of pain. Instead, the presence of any of these behaviors may be indicative of pain and warrants further investigation, treatment and/or monitoring.

CHECKLIST OF NONVERBAL PAIN INDICATORS (CNPI)		
Behavior	Movement	At Rest
1. Vocal complaints: nonverbal Sighs, gasps, moans, groans, cries		
2. Facial grimaces/winces Furrowed brow, narrowed eyes, clenched teeth, tightened lips, jaw drop, distorted expressions		
3. Bracing Clutching or holding onto furniture, equipment or affected area during movement		
4. Restlessness Constant or intermittent shifting of position, rocking, intermittent or constant hand motions, inability to keep still		
5. Rubbing Massaging affected area		
6. Vocal complaints: verbal Words expressing discomfort or pain, e.g. “ouch,” “that hurts”; cursing during movement; exclamations of protest, e.g. “stop,” “that’s enough”		
Subtotal Scores		
Total Score		

Feldt KS. The checklist of nonverbal pain indicators (CNPI). Pain Manag Nurs. 2000 Mar.1(1):13-21.

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