

### Introduction

Instructions detailing the use of the numeric rating scale (NRS) to assess pain intensity for persons able to self report.

### Numeric Rating Scale (NRS) Instructions

**Purpose:** To assess pain intensity in persons who are able to self report.

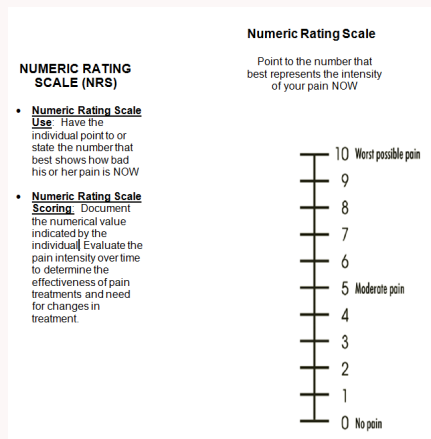
#### When to Use:

1. At initial intake/admission to services.
2. For an older adult in pain, assess at least every 8 hours an older adult in pain, assess at least every 8 hours.
3. Any time a change in pain status is reported.
4. One hour following a pain intervention to assess effectiveness.
5. For older adults residing in long term health care settings, assessments should be completed at each quarterly review.

**How to Use:** Ask individual to point to the number on the Numeric Rating Scale that best represents the intensity of their pain NOW.

**Documentation:** Document/record all scores in a location that is readily accessible by others on the health care team.

### Numeric Rating Scale (NRS)



Credit: Keela Herr, PhD, RN, FAAN, AGSF