

10. Sobbing in pain. Possibly losing consciousness.

- 9. Tears, whimpers, or moans of pain are escaping.
- 8. Pain is thought-consuming. It's near-impossible to get anything done.
 - 7. In pain all the time. Desperately looking for an opportunity for relief.
 - 6. Pain interrupts or slows most activities.
 - 5. Distracted by pain during most activities. Adjusting plans to make things easier, if possible.
- 4. Aware of my pain and possibly modifying some activities, but still able function.
 - 3. Able to participate in normal tasks and activities, but they are more painful and less enjoyable than normal.
 - 2. Everything aches more than it normally does, but it isn't enough to change routine.

1. A "normal" level of pain. For chronic pain patients, this could still be significant, but this is where we set the baseline for acute evaluation.

Using this tool with your doctor:

Chronic pain can complicate communication between patient and doctor. This pain scale is designed to help patients communicate when experiencing acute pain flares.