**Pain Assessment Tools Decision Tree**

**ANTICIPATE PAINFUL PROCEDURES**

**START**
- Procedure? Y → Assume Pain Present
  - Prevention now may decrease chronic pain later.

**WHEN IN DOUBT**
- Trial an intervention
- Watch for changes in behavior and physiological indicators.
- Treat pain if pathology or therapy cause pain for most people.

**SELF - REPORT: PATIENTS’ DESCRIPTION OF PAIN**

- Self Report? Y → Labor
- Labor? Y → Labor Coping
- Self Report? N
- Numbers? Y → Numeric
- Faces? N

**OBJECTIVE BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT**

- Neonate (NIPS premature = 100 days NIPS birth < full term = 1 year)
  - Critical Condition? Y → NPASS
  - Premature? Y → NIPS
- Dietary? Y
- Premature? Y → NIPS

- Pediatric (101 Days - 16 yrs)
  - Critical Condition? Y → Comfort-B
  - Cognitive Disability? Y → R-FLACC
  - N → FLACC

- Adult (18+ yrs)
  - Critical Condition? Y → CPOT
  - Dementia? Y → PAIN-AD
  - N → CNPI

- Behavioral pain tools help to focus on behaviors that are indicators of pain.
- Increasing/decreasing scores using the same tool may suggest increasing/decreasing pain.
- However, behavioral tool scores **cannot** be translated into pain intensity like self-report scores. (i.e. a low behavioral score does not imply low-intensity pain)
- NIPS and FLACC have overlap coverage and both tools are appropriate between 101 days and one year. Consistency is the most important factor. Stay with the tool that was originally selected to offer the ability to compare results.

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