Appendix B: Pain Rating Scales

Pain Rating Scales

0   1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10
No pain  Moderate pain  Worst possible pain

Fig. 3.4 Example of how some clinical settings combine the horizontal numerical rating scale (NRS) with word anchors and the Wong-Baker faces scale. These are placed on one card or piece of paper so that the patient has a choice of pain rating scales. If the numerical scale with word descriptors is not easily understood, the faces scale is likely to be. The numbers beneath the faces have been changed from 0 to 5 to a 0 to 10 scale so that the recording of pain intensity is consistently on a 0 to 10 scale.

Faces pain rating scale modified from Wong DL: Whaley & Wong's essentials of pediatric nursing, ed 5, pp. 1215-1216, St. Louis, 1997, Mosby.