

4.4.3.1 Assessment of procedural pain

It is important to undertake a pain assessment regularly during each stage of the medical procedure to evaluate the need for pharmacological +/- non-pharmacological interventions to promote the comfort of the child.

Link to: Pain assessment and measurement

[http://www.rch.org.au/rchcpg/hospital_clinical_guideline_index/Pain Assessment and Measurement/](http://www.rch.org.au/rchcpg/hospital_clinical_guideline_index/Pain_Assessment_and_Measurement/)

Link to: pain assessment Neonatal

[http://www.rch.org.au/rchcpg/hospital_clinical_guideline_index/Neonatal Pain Assessment/](http://www.rch.org.au/rchcpg/hospital_clinical_guideline_index/Neonatal_Pain_Assessment/)

Clinical tip

In children, it can be difficult to distinguish between physical pain and the distress related to the medical procedure. It is still important to distinguish between the two so that appropriate pain management interventions are initiated.

Ask a child who appears distressed how they are feeling about the medical procedure and if this is because it hurts or because they are worried.