

## BAXTER ANIMATED RETCHING FACES (BARF) SCALE

### Table of Contents

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- [Critical Points](#)
- [Supplies](#)
- [Procedure](#)
- [References](#)
- [Appendix A: BARF Scale](#)

### Critical Points

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1. BARF score of 10 is only used if the patient has emesis.
2. A higher score indicates a higher intensity of nausea.
  - a. Nausea can cause considerable discomfort and affect patient responses to some treatments, such as Dihydroergotamine (DHE), a treatment for chronic headache syndromes. This drug has been shown to work more effectively for headache pain in patients whose nausea is well controlled during infusions. (DHE is a known highly emetic medication.)

### Supplies

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- Baxter Animated Retching Faces (BARF) Scale (see [Appendix A](#))

### Procedure

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1. Use the following script along with the BARF scale printout:
  - a. Talk to the child/adolescent and explain nausea.
    - i. Example: "Have you thrown up or felt like you were going to throw up before?"
  - b. Show BARF scale to patient and explain.
    - i. "These faces show children who feel no nausea at all, who feel a little bit nauseated, who feel even more nauseated, and these are children who have the worst nausea which makes them throw up".
      1. Point to each face at the appropriate time.
  - c. Ask: "Which face is most like how you feel right now?"
    1. The numerical value corresponding to the chosen face is the nausea score.
  - d. Document the numerical nausea score on the paper sheet kept at bedside. (See [Documentation section](#).)

### DOCUMENTATION

1. Open the BARF scale on the **Vital Signs Flowsheet** under "Additional Assessments/Interventions by choosing the scale from the **accordion list** or select from the list in the **sidebar** (see Fig. 1).

### BAXTER ANIMATED RETCHING FACES (BARF) SCALE (continued)

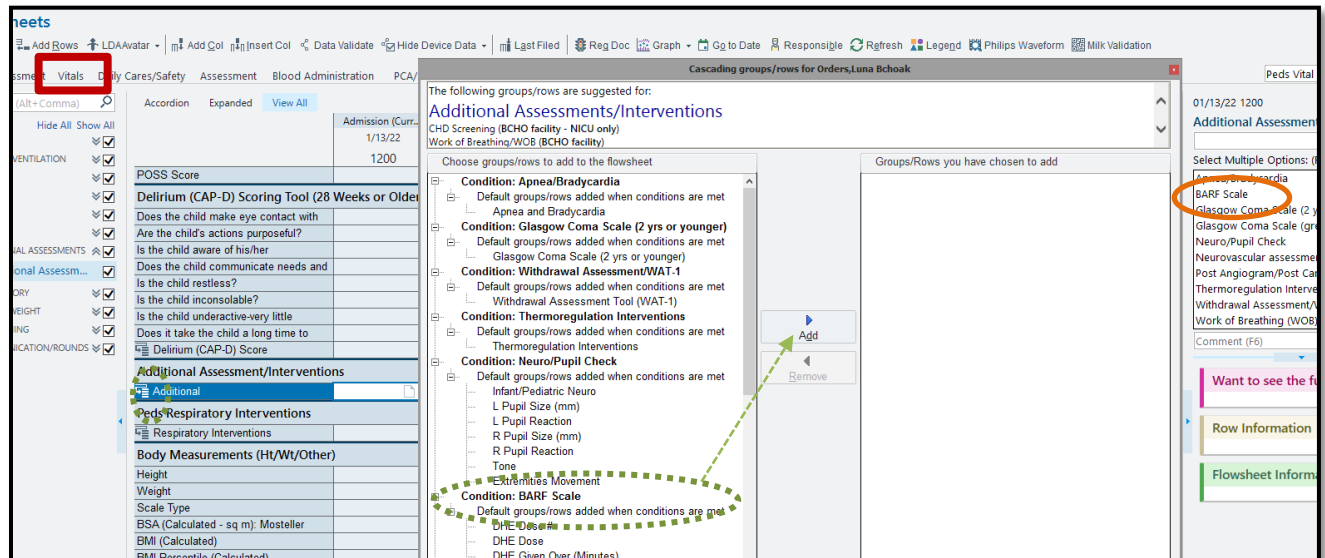


Fig. 1: How to find BARF Scale in Vital Signs Flowsheet

- Document pre and post BARF scores including any interventions; if documenting assessments in conjunction with Dihydroergotamine (DHE), indicate dose number, dose and length of infusion (see [Fig. 2](#)).

Baxter Animated Retching Face (BARF) Scale					
DHE Dose #		1	2	3	
DHE Dose		0.5	0.75	0.5	
DHE Given Over (Minutes)		60	60	60	
Antiemetic Given		Zofran (Ondans...	Zofran (Ondans...	Zofran (Ondans...	
Antiemetic PRN or ATC		PRN	PRN	ATC	
BARF* Score Pre-DHE		2	4	2	
Interventions		Non-pharma	Pharma;Non-p...	Non-pharma	
Non-Pharma Interventions		peppermint;ice...	peppermint;ice...	peppermint;ice...	
Pharma Interventions			phenergan or t...		
BARF* Score if changed with Infusion		2	6	2	

Fig. 2: Documentation of BARF Scale

BAXTER ANIMATED RETCHING FACES (BARF) SCALE (*continued*)

## References

Level of Evidence (FAME*)	Level*	Reference
	E3	Baxter, A. L., Watcha, M. F., Baxter, W. V., Leong, T., & Wyatt, M. M. (2011). Development and validation of a pictorial nausea rating scale for children. <i>Pediatrics</i> , 127(6), e1542–e1549. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2010-1410">https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2010-1410</a>
	E4	Evans, A., Vingelen, M. B., Yu, C., Baird, J., Murray, P., & Bryant, P. (2020). Nausea in Numbers: Electronic Medical Record Nausea and Vomiting Assessment for Children With Cancer. <i>Journal of pediatric oncology nursing : official journal of the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses</i> , 37(3), 195–203. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1177/1043454219900467">https://doi.org/10.1177/1043454219900467</a>
	E4	Leiner, M., Peinado, J., Villanos, M. T., & Jimenez, P. (2013). Assessment Disparities among Pediatric Patients: Advantages of Pictorial Descriptions. <i>Frontiers in pediatrics</i> , 1, 28. <a href="https://doi.org/10.3389/fped.2013.00028">https://doi.org/10.3389/fped.2013.00028</a>
	E4	Nagy, A. J., Gandhi, S., Bhola, R., & Goadsby, P. J. (2011). Intravenous dihydroergotamine for inpatient management of refractory primary headaches. <i>Neurology</i> , 77(20), 1827–1832. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182377dbb">https://doi.org/10.1212/WNL.0b013e3182377dbb</a>
	E4	Şişman, Eti Aslan, F., Özgen, R., Alptekin, D., & Akil, Y. (2016). Validity and reliability study of the Baxter Animated Retching Faces nausea scale. <i>Journal of Pediatric Surgical Nursing</i> , 5(4), 98–106. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1097/JPS.0000000000000114">https://doi.org/10.1097/JPS.0000000000000114</a>
* FAME Scale details: See nursing policy <i>Policy, Procedure, &amp; Competency Development, Review, &amp; Approval</i>		

## Procedure History

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## BAXTER ANIMATED RETCHING FACES (BARF) SCALE (*continued*)

### Appendix A: BARF Scale

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