

ALS Printable Communication Boards

Directions

These printable communication boards provide options for supporting someone with a condition that impairs speech and movement such as ALS/MND. Use these boards when an AAC device is not available.

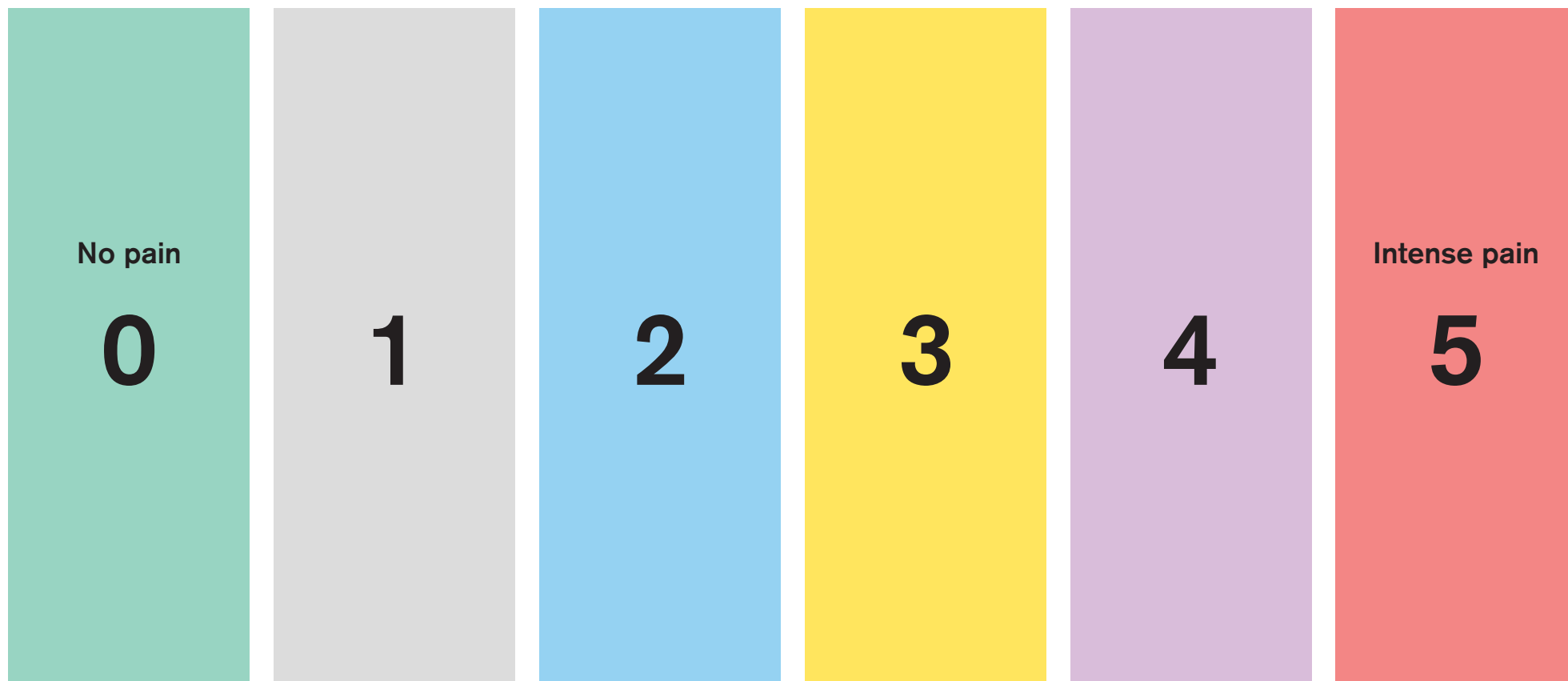
If the communicator is unable to touch the board directly, use partner assisted scanning, a method of alternative communication in which a partner presents choices sequentially until the communicator indicates their need or preference.

Before using these boards, the communicator and their partner should agree on how to indicate a “yes” response. It could be a facial expression, eye blink, gesture or vocalization—whatever is most comfortable for the communicator.

Pain Scale

The pain scale runs from 0 to 5, with 0 representing no pain, and 5 representing intense pain.

The communicator can either point to the number, or the partner can say each number aloud until the communicator indicates “yes” with the established signal.



Partner-assisted scanning board

This is a communication system which contains letters or messages that a partner reads aloud to a communicator, who makes selections using an established signal. A communicator who can use their fingers may point to indicate their selection. We have provided two options. Choose the one that works best for you.

1. Partner reviews rows by pointing or speaking to ask if the letter or message is in each, making sure to pause between rows.
2. Communicator indicates “yes” when their partner reaches the row containing the right selection.
3. If the communicator is comfortable with their partner guessing, their partner may guess the word after two letters are given.
4. If no response is given, the partner should review the letters and ask the communicator to continue spelling.

A	B	C	D	Space	Mistake
E	F	G	H	Help	End
I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z

A	B	C	D	Space	Mistake
E	F	G	H	Help	End
I	J	K	L	M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Partner-assisted scanning board

This is a communication system which contains letters or messages that a partner reads aloud to a communicator, who makes selections using an established signal. A communicator who can use their fingers may point to indicate their selection. In the blank squares, write personalized choices which fit into each category.

1. Partner names topics at the beginning of each row, pausing between each one.
2. Communicator indicates “yes” when their partner reaches the desired topic.
3. Partner then names each option within the topic, pausing between each one.
4. Communicator indicates “yes” when their partner reaches the desired option.

Emergency	Can't breathe	Choking	Pain	Bathroom	Sick		
Needs	Rest	Stop	Quiet	Reposition	Family		
Move	Body	Head	Arms	Legs	Hips	Wheelchair	
Feelings	Good	Bad	Worried	Happy	Sad	Anxious	Excited
Things to do	Watch TV	Read	Movie	Visit	Go outside	Take a nap	Social media
People							

E-Tran Boards

E-tran stands for Eye Transfer. An E-tran board is a communication system which enables people to make selections with their eyes.

Each E-tran board in this document consists of two pages that mirror each other. To see where the communicator is looking, a partner should place them back-to-back.

1. Partner cuts out the center of the two mirrored boards and places them back to back.
2. Partner and communicator establish eye contact through the center opening.
3. Communicator looks at the group of letters or words containing their selection for around 3 seconds.
4. Partner points to the group and asks the communicator to indicate “yes”. (If no response is given, the communicator should look at the group of letters or words containing their selection again for around 3 seconds.)
5. Communicator looks at the color block of the desired letter or word for around 3 seconds.
6. Partner points to the selected color block and asks the communicator to indicate “yes”.

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

N

O

P

Q

R

S

T

Cut out this section

U

V

W

X

Y

Z

Wrong letter or word

Start over

End

Space

No

Yes

J

I

L

K

F

E

H

G

B

A

D

C

R

Q

T

S

Cut out this section

N

M

P

O

Space

End

Yes

No

Z

Y

Start over

Wrong letter or word

V

U

X

W

Food

Happy

Drink

Sad

Help

Angry

TV

Hot

Music

Cold

Movie

Sick

Cut out this section

More

Bored

Stop

Upset

Pain

Silly

Game

Pain

Itchy

Read

Outside

Tired

Angry

Help

Sad

Drink

Happy

Food

Sick

Movie

Cold

Music

Hot

TV

Cut out this section

Silly

Pain

Upset

Stop

Bored

More

Tired

Outside

Read

Itchy

Pain

Game

Pain

Position

Breathing

TV

Cut out this section

Other

Bed

Needs

Spell

Breathing

Position

Pain

Other

Cut out this section

TV

Spell

Needs

Bed

