

INDICATION

The Glasgow Coma Scale is used as a standard for assessment of impaired consciousness and coma in the acutely ill trauma and non-trauma patients. Assists with predictions of neurological outcomes and mortality.

INTERPRETATION

Score ranges from 3 to 15.

Can be indicative of how critically ill a patient may be, however a score of 15 does not rule out critical illness.

A declining GCS highlights concern and should prompt urgent review.

A score  $\leq 8$  *can* highlight potential airway compromise.

CALCULATION

**Total score = sum of scores for each question**

|                           |                         |    |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|----|
| Best eye response opening | Spontaneously           | +4 |
|                           | To verbal command       | +3 |
|                           | To pain                 | +2 |
|                           | No eye opening          | +1 |
| Best verbal response      | Orientated              | +5 |
|                           | Confused                | +4 |
|                           | Inappropriate words     | +3 |
|                           | Incomprehensible sounds | +2 |
|                           | No verbal response      | +1 |
| Best motor response       | Obeys commands          | +6 |
|                           | Localises to pain       | +5 |
|                           | Withdrawal from pain    | +4 |
|                           | Flexion to pain         | +3 |
|                           | Extension to pain       | +2 |
|                           | No motor response       | +1 |