

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 ≤ 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
Best motor response	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
Best motor response	Extension to pain	+2
	No motor response	+1