

NIHSS – Circle the score for the patient’s best effort for each examination item.

1. Level of consciousness					
Alert					0
Not alert but easily rousable					1
Not alert, requires repeated stimulation to arouse					2
Coma (no or reflexive responses only)					3
1b. Ask “What month is it?” “How old are you”					
Answers both correctly					0
Answers one correctly					1
Answers neither correctly or too dysphasic or stuporous to reply					2
1c. Ask “Open and close your eyes”, “Grip and release your hand”					
Performs both correctly					0
Performs one correctly					1
Performs neither correctly					2
2. Best Gaze. Assess horizontal conjugate gaze to each side					
Normal					0
Partial gaze palsy (can be overcome by turning head)					1
Forced deviation (both eyes deviated to same side, can’t move to opposite side)					2
3. Visual. (Assess blink to visual threat if aphasic or stuporous)					
No Visual Loss					0
Partial hemianopia					1
Complete hemianopia					2
Bilateral hemianopias/cortical blindness					3
4. Facial paresis. (Assess grimace to pain if aphasic or stuporous)					
Normal symmetrical					0
Mild weakness (eg asymmetric smile)					1
Moderate weakness					2
Paralysis (UMN or LMN)					3
5/6.	Limb <i>voluntary</i> motor function	RUL	RLL	LUL	LLL
	Normal	0	0	0	0
	Drift	1	1	1	1
	Some effort against gravity	2	2	2	2
	No effort against gravity	3	3	3	3
	No movement (or coma)	4	4	4	4
7. Limb ataxia. Perform FNF and HKS on both sides					
Normal (or too aphasic/stuporous/paralysed to test)					0
Abnormal in 1 limb					1
Abnormal in 2 or more limbs					2
8. Sensation. Test pinprick face, trunk, arm, leg both sides					
Normal					0
Mild to moderate loss					1
Severe bilateral loss (or coma)					2
9. Best language output					
No aphasia					0
Mild to moderate expressive dysphasia					1
Severe expressive dysphasia					2
Mute or global aphasia (or coma)					3
10. Dysarthria					
None					0
Mild-Moderate					1
Severe (or coma)					2
11. Inattention					
No inattention, appreciates bilateral simultaneous stimuli					0
Inattention to one of : tactile or spatial or sensory					1
Severe inattention to > 1 modality (or coma)					2
TOTAL (score < 4 or > 22 may exclude patient from treatment)					

## Appendix 2: Inclusion/Exclusion criteria for stroke thrombolysis

INCLUSION CRITERIA	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Age $\geq$ 18 and reasonable premorbid functional level (Discuss pts $<$ 18y with on call neurology)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Confident diagnosis of acute stroke (rapid onset FOCAL neurological deficit)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reliable stroke onset time. If unknown or wakes with stroke, onset is last awake and normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stroke onset to thrombolysis needle $<$ 4.5 hours. This is unlikely possible if pt arrives after 3.5h. NB: Treatment of elderly patients $>$ 80y with large strokes in the 3-4.5h timeframe is controversial – recommend discuss with on call neurology
<input type="checkbox"/>	The patient MUST meet ALL of the above criteria
EXCLUSIONS	
Clinical	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Seizure at stroke <i>onset</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comatose/obtunded with fixed eye deviation and complete hemiplegia (eg NIHSS $>$ 22)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SBP $\geq$ 185 or DBP $\geq$ 110 despite up to 2 doses of IV Labetolol 10-20mg
<input type="checkbox"/>	Features suggestive of subarachnoid haemorrhage (thunderclap headache) – even if CT normal
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor deficit (NIHSS $<$ 4) (*) or sustained major improvement (consider review in 15-30min)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Possible septic embolus
<input type="checkbox"/>	Active or recent haemorrhage that could not be managed by local compression (menstruation *)
Historical	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Known bleeding diathesis or LMW heparin $<$ 48h or warfarin with INR $>$ 1.3 (*) or dabigatran (*)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intracranial neoplasm (NB: incidental meningioma or acoustic neuroma may be acceptable)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-compressible arterial puncture $<$ 7 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	GI or GU bleed (other than normal menstruation) $<$ 21 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major surgery, trauma or organ biopsy $<$ 30 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pregnancy or childbirth $<$ 30 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	Myocardial infarct $<$ 30 days
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stroke or head trauma $<$ 3 months
<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Ever</i> history of intracranial haemorrhage, aneurysm or AVM
Laboratory	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Baseline glucose $<$ 2.8 or $>$ 22.0 mmol/L
<input type="checkbox"/>	Platelets $<$ 100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hct $<$ 0.25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Positive pregnancy test (if applicable)
Radiological	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-stroke etiology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Intracranial haemorrhage
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hypodensity $>$ 1/3 MCA territory
Other	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consent cannot be obtained (severe dysphasia and NOK unavailable) (*)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Severely impaired premorbid functional status with limited life expectancy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Should not have any exclusions - items marked (*) may be considered in certain circumstances