Prediction of Alcohol Withdrawal Severity Scale
(PAWSS)

Maldonado et al. 2015

Part A: Threshold Criteria: ("Y" or "N", no point)

Have you consumed any amount of alcohol (i.e., been drinking) within the last 30 days?
OR did the patient have a positive blood alcohol level (BAL) on admission?
IF the answer to either is YES, proceed with the test: _____

Part B: Based on patient interview: (1 point each)

1. Have you been recently <u>intoxicated/drunk</u>, within the last 30 days?   _____

2. Have you <u>ever</u> undergone alcohol use disorder rehabilitation treatment or
    treatment for alcoholism?   _____

3. Have you <u>ever</u> experienced any previous episodes of alcohol withdrawal,
    regardless of severity?   _____

4. Have you <u>ever</u> experienced any blackouts?   _____

5. Have you <u>ever</u> experienced alcohol withdrawal seizures?   _____

6. Have you <u>ever</u> experienced delirium tremens or DT's?   _____

7. Have you combined alcohol with other "downers' like benzodiazepines or
    barbiturates, <u>during the last 90 days</u>?   _____

8. Have you combined alcohol with any other substances of abuse, <u>during the last 90
    days</u>?   _____

Part C: Based on clinical evidence   (1 point each)

9. Was the patient's blood alcohol level (BAL) <u>on presentation</u> equal to or greater
    than 43 mmol/L?   _____

10. Is there evidence of increased autonomic activity?
    (e.g. HR greater than 120 bpm, tremor, sweating, agitation, nausea)   _____

                                                        Total Score: _____

Notes: Maximum score = 10. This instrument is a SCREENING TOOL. The greater the number of positive findings, the higher the risk for developing alcohol withdrawal syndrome.
A score of 4 or above suggests HIGH RISK for moderate to severe (complicated) alcohol withdrawal syndrome; prophylaxis and/or treatment may be indicated.

_____   _____   _____
Prescriber's Signature   Printed Name   College ID