



National Institute of Clinical Studies

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## APPENDIX H: Validated neurological assessment tools

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### Emergency Department Stroke and Transient Ischaemic Attack Care Bundle:

Information and implementation package

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## Appendix H: Validated neurological assessment tools

The following tools, the Canadian Neurological Scale (CNS), the National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS), and the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) are provided as examples of validated tools that can be used by nurses or doctors for assessing neurological status.

### Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)<sup>44</sup>

The Glasgow Coma Scale is scored between 3 and 15, 3 being the worst and 15 being the best.

Best Eye Response (E)	Best Verbal Response (V)	Best Motor Response (M)
1. No eye opening	1. No verbal response	1. No motor response
2. Eye opening to pain	2. Incomprehensible sounds	2. Extension to pain
3. Eye opening to verbal command	3. Intelligible but inappropriate words	3. Flexion to pain
4. Eyes open spontaneously	4. Confused	4. Withdrawal from pain
	5. Orientated	5. Localising pain
		6. Obeys commands

Canadian Neurological Scale (CNS)<sup>45-47</sup>

Mentation		Score
Level of Consciousness	Alert	3.0
	Drowsy	1.5
Orientation	Orientated	1.0
	Disorientated/NA	0.0
Speech	Normal	1.0
	Expressive Deficit	0.5
	Receptive Deficit	0.0
Section A1 – No Comprehensive Deficit		
Motor Function	Weakness	Score
Face	None	0.5
	Present	0.0
Arm: Proximal	None	1.5
	Mild	1.0
	Significant	0.5
	Total	0.0
Arm: Distal	None	1.5
	Mild	1.0
	Significant	0.5
	Total	0.0
Leg: Proximal	None	1.5
	Mild	1.0
	Significant	0.5
	Total	0.0
Leg: Distal	None	1.5
	Mild	1.0
	Significant	0.5
	Total	0.0
Section A2 – Comprehensive Deficit		
Motor Function	Weakness	Score
Face	Symmetrical	0.5
	Asymmetrical	0.0
Arms	Equal	1.5
	Unequal	0.0
Legs	Equal	1.5
	Unequal	0.0

## National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS)

The NIHSS should only be used by trained clinicians.

Please see the NIHSS website for the original version of the scale, along with a number of free training tools: <http://www.nihstrokescale.org/>