

GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS)

EYES		
SCORE	TEST	RESPONSE
4	Spontaneous	Open eyes without outside stimuli
3	To Speech	Opens eyes on verbal stimuli
2	To Pain	Opens eyes after painful stimuli
1	Nil	Doesn't open eyes after any stimuli

VERBAL		
SCORE	TEST	RESPONSE
5	Orientated	Is orientated, aware in answering questions
4	Confused	Appears confused but can produce meaningful sentences
3	Inappropriate	Answers with inappropriate words often obscenities
2	Incomprehensible	Groans, moans or mumblings, no intelligible words
1	Nil	No verbal responses to any stimuli

MOTOR		
SCORE	TEST	RESPONSE
6	Obeys Commands	Accurately responds to commands of physical actions
5	Localises Pain	Moves a hand or arm towards a painful stimuli to remove it
4	Withdraws from Pain	Withdraws a body part from source of painful stimuli
3	Decorticate Reaction	Abnormal flexing of joints in response to painful stimuli
2	Decerebrate Reaction	Abnormal extension of joints in response to painful stimuli
1	Nil	No motor response to any stimuli

The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) was created by two Scottish Neurosurgeons; Graham Teasdale and Bryan Jennet in 1974.

It is scored between 3 and 15, 3 being the lowest and 15 the highest. It is made up of 3 parts; eye opening, verbal response and motor response.

The total score is made up by adding each of the three parts. The term GCS 12 is meaningless, it should be given as parts for example: E4V3M5 = GCS 12. The exceptions are GCS 15 and GCS 3 since they can only be made one way.

The AVPU scale is a simplified version for assessing level of consciousness. Being simpler, it has more users including First Aiders.

A – Alert,
 V – Responds to voice,
 P -- Responds to Pain
 U – Unresponsive.

A correlation has been shown between AVPU and GCS (Mackay, Burke et al). A equals GCS 15, V and P occurs at around GCS 9 (however it is formed). Hence a patient scoring P or U correlates with a severe brain injury.

GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS)

MONITORING SHEET

PATIENT NAME	
DATE	
TIME	

VALUES	TIMES											
EYES												
VERBAL												
MOTOR												
TOTAL												