

WITHDRAWAL ASSESSMENT TOOL VERSION 1 (WAT – 1)

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Patient Identifier														
		Date:												
		Time:												
Information from patient record, previous 12 hours														
Any loose/watery stools	No = 0 Yes = 1													
Any vomiting, retching, gagging	No = 0 Yes = 1													
Temperature > 37.8 °C	No = 0 Yes = 1													
2 minute pre-stimulus observation														
State	SBS ¹ < 0 or asleep/awake calm = 0 SBS ¹ ≥ +1 or awake distressed = 1													
Tremor	None/mild = 0 Moderate/severe = 1													
Any sweating	No = 0 Yes = 1													
Uncoordinated/repetitive movement	None/mild = 0 Moderate/severe = 1													
Yawning or sneezing	None or 1 = 0 >2 = 1													
1 minute stimulus observation														
Startle to touch	None/mild = 0 Moderate/severe = 1													
Muscle tone	Normal = 0 Increased = 1													
Post-stimulus recovery														
Time to gain calm state (SBS¹ ≤ 0)	< 2 minutes = 0 2 - 5 minutes = 1 > 5 minutes = 2													
Total Score (0-12)														

WITHDRAWAL ASSESSMENT TOOL (WAT – 1) INSTRUCTIONS

- Start WAT-1 scoring from the **first day of weaning** in patients who have received opioids +/- benzodiazepines by infusion or regular dosing for prolonged periods (e.g., > 5 days). Continue twice daily scoring until 72 hours after the last dose.
- The Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WAT-1) should be completed along with the SBS¹ at least once per 12-hour shift (e.g., at 08:00 and 20:00 ± 2 hours). The progressive stimulus used in the SBS¹ assessment provides a standard stimulus for observing signs of withdrawal.

Obtain information from the patient's record (this can be done before or after the stimulus):

- ✓ **Loose/watery stools:** Score 1 if any loose or watery stools were documented in the past 12 hours; score 0 if none were noted.
- ✓ **Vomiting, retching, gagging:** Score 1 if any vomiting or spontaneous retching or gagging were documented in the past 12 hours; score 0 if none were noted.
- ✓ **Temperature > 37.8°C:** Score 1 if the modal (most frequently occurring) temperature documented was greater than 37.8 °C in the past 12 hours; score 0 if this was not the case.

2 minute pre-stimulus observation:

- ✓ **State:** Score 1 if awake and distress (SBS¹ ≥ +1) observed during the 2 minutes prior to stimulus; score 0 if asleep or awake and calm/cooperative (SBS¹ ≤ 0).
- ✓ **Tremor:** Score 1 if moderate to severe tremor observed during the 2 minutes prior to stimulus; score 0 if no tremor (or only minor, intermittent tremor).
- ✓ **Sweating:** Score 1 if any sweating during the 2 minutes prior to stimulus; score 0 if no sweating noted.
- ✓ **Uncoordinated/repetitive movements:** Score 1 if moderate to severe uncoordinated or repetitive movements such as head turning, leg or arm flailing or torso arching observed during the 2 minutes prior to stimulus; score 0 if no (or only mild) uncoordinated or repetitive movements.
- ✓ **Yawning or sneezing:** Score 1 if more than 1 yawn or sneeze observed during the 2 minutes prior to stimulus; score 0 if 0 to 1 yawn or sneeze.

1 minute stimulus observation

- ✓ **Startle to touch:** Score 1 if moderate to severe startle occurs when touched during stimulus; score 0 if none (or mild).
- ✓ **Muscle tone:** Score 1 if tone increased during the stimulus; score 0 if normal.

Post-stimulus recovery:

- ✓ **Time to gain calm state (SBS¹ ≤ 0):** Score 2 if it takes greater than 5 minutes following stimulus; score 1 if achieved within 2 to 5 minutes; score 0 if achieved in less than 2 minutes.

Sum the 11 numbers in the column for the total WAT-1 score (0-12).

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¹Curley et al. State behavioral scale: A sedation assessment instrument for infants and young children supported on mechanical ventilation. *Pediatr Crit Care Med* 2006;7(2):107-114.