

THE GLASGOW COMA SCALE (GCS)

The Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) is a neurological scale used to assess a person's level of consciousness and overall brain function after an injury or in cases of illness affecting the brain. It evaluates three key aspects of responsiveness: Eye Opening, Verbal Response, and Motor Response. Each of these components is scored individually, and the sum of the scores provides an overall assessment of the patient's neurological status.

The total GCS score ranges from 3 to 15, with higher scores indicating better neurological function.

Components and Scoring of the Glasgow Coma Scale

Eye Opening Response (E)

- 4: Spontaneous – eyes open without any stimulation.
- 3: To speech – eyes open in response to verbal stimuli.
- 2: To pain – eyes open in response to a painful stimulus.
- 1: No response – no eye opening at all.

Verbal Response (V)

- 5: Oriented – the patient is able to respond coherently and appropriately to questions about their name, location, or the time.
- 4: Confused – the patient responds with incorrect information but is still able to converse.
- 3: Inappropriate words – random or non-contextual speech.
- 2: Incomprehensible sounds – moaning, groaning, or other sounds without actual words.
- 1: No response – no verbal output.

Motor Response (M)

- 6: Obeys commands – the patient is able to follow simple commands like "move your arm."
- 5: Localizes pain – the patient moves in response to pain by attempting to remove the painful stimulus.
- 4: Withdraws from pain – the patient pulls away from a painful stimulus.
- 3: Abnormal flexion (decorticate posturing) – the patient exhibits flexion of the arms and wrists with the arms drawn toward the chest in response to pain.

2: Abnormal extension (decerebrate posturing) – the patient exhibits rigid extension of the arms and legs, indicating severe brain injury.

1: No response – no motor movement in response to any stimuli.