

Subject Number: _____ Therapist's Name OR Code: _____ Date of Evaluation: ____/____/____ Time: _____ AM PM

DISORDERS OF CONSCIOUSNESS SCALE-25 © 2014 US Dept. of Veterans Affairs

BASELINE OBSERVATIONS CHECKLIST

Is the DOCS being co-administered: Yes or No (if yes remember to score separately)

Discipline(s)(circle all indicated): SLP PT OT Psychology Nursing Research

Location of Baseline Observation & Nature of Previous Activity (specify): _____

Evaluation was broken into 2 sessions: Yes or No If Yes, is this the: 1st session or 2nd session

Noise Level of Environment (Circle): Noisy Quiet Intermittent Noise Interruptions

Heart Rate: Lowest reading: _____ Highest Reading: _____

Blood Oxygen Level (via pulse oximetry): Lowest reading: _____ Highest Reading: _____

POSITION OF PATIENT (check position that patient is in during the baseline observations):

☐ in bed lying on back ☐ in bed between 45 & 90 degrees ☐ side-lying in bed ☐ upright in chair ☐ reclined in chair

SPONTANEOUS & RANDOM MOVEMENTS: (check all that are observed)

☐ eyebrow movement (circle one: right left both) ☐ frown or grimace ☐ smiling ☐ biting or grinding of teeth
☐ mouth twitching or tremors ☐ tongue movement ☐ lip movement ☐ head movement
☐ LLE movement ☐ RLE movement ☐ LUE movement ☐ RUE movement ☐ none

RESPIRATION: (check the appropriate boxes) ☐ quiet ☐ shallow ☐ striderous ☐ fast ☐ other

SWALLOWING: Check the amount of drooling: ☐ constant ☐ occasional ☐ not observed ☐ none

Check location of drooling: ☐ right corner ☐ left corner ☐ midline ☐ all of these locations ☐ none

Number of spontaneous swallows observed: _____

POSTURE: Describe the following as: tense, relaxed, spastic, flexed, extended or describe other posturing:

Facial Posture: _____ Neck Posture: _____ LUE

Posture: _____ RUE Posture: _____ LLE

Posture: _____ RLE Posture: _____

Whole Body Posture: _____

VISUAL: Does patient wear eye glasses? Yes No If yes, were they worn during this observation? Yes No

Level of illumination in room (check only one): ☐ dark ☐ dim ☐ bright

Duration & Frequency of Eye Opening: (check only one): ☐ one eye open Right__ or Left__

☐ eyes closed; no spontaneous eye opening ☐ eyes open initially; spontaneously close after ____ seconds, but reopened for ____ seconds
☐ eyes closed initially; spontaneous eye opening for < 1 minute ☐ eyes spontaneously open and remain open throughout the observation period
☐ eyes closed initially; spontaneous eye opening for > 1 minute ☐ partially open
☐ eyes open initially; spontaneously close after ____ seconds and remain closed ☐ eyes remain open all the time (circle one: without any blinking or with blinking)

Eye Positioning & Movement: (check all that are appropriate) ☐ could not observe eyes ☐ both eyes deviated right

☐ both eyes deviated left ☐ left eye deviated ☐ right eye deviate **right pupil:** ☐ dilated ☐ constricted **left pupil:** ☐ dilated ☐ constricted

☐ nystagmus (i.e., rhythmical oscillation of the eyeballs- either pendular or jerky)

☐ ptosis (i.e., drooping of the upper eyelid): left eye right eye bilateral

right pupil: ☐ dilated ☐ constricted left pupil: ☐ dilated ☐ constricted

Source:

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1. Pape, T. L.-B., Heinemann, A., Kelly, J.P., Hurder, A, G, Lundgren, S. (2005). A Measure of Neurobehavioral Functioning after Coma-Part I: Theory Reliability and Validity of the Disorders of Consciousness Scale, Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development, Jan/Feb, 42 (1) 1-18.
2. Pape, T. L.-B., Senno, R., Guernon, A. Kelly, J. (2005). A Measure of Neurobehavioral Functioning after Coma-Part II: Detection and Measurement of Meaningful Effects during Coma Recovery, Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development, Jan/Feb, 42 (1) 19-28.
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DIRECTIONS: PRIOR to Administering Test Items use the clinical definitions and criteria below to classify the patient's state of altered consciousness.
CHECK ONLY ONE.

	Coma	Vegetative State	Minimally Conscious State	Conscious
Check ONE:	☐	☐	☐	☐
Definitions	A state of unarousable neurobehavioral responsiveness	A state of arousal without behavioral evidence of awareness of self or capacity to interact with the environment	A condition in which minimal but definite evidence of self or environmental awareness is demonstrated.	Consciousness is inferred when a person adaptively responds to ongoing sensory input in a manner that is not reflexic, stereotypical or automatic.
Clinical Criteria	Does not: 1. follow commands, 2. demonstrate volitional behavior, 3. verbalize, or 4. mouth words	1. No evidence of sustained, reproducible, purposeful or voluntary behavioral responses to visual, auditory, tactile, or noxious stimuli; 2. No evidence of language comprehension or expression; 3. Intermittent wakefulness manifested by the preservation of sleep-wake cycles; 4. Sufficiently preserved hypothalamic and brain stem autonomic functions to permit survival with medical and nursing care; 5. Bowel and bladder incontinence; 6. Variably preserved cranial nerve and spinal reflexes	One or more of the following must be clearly discernible and occur on a reproducible basis: 1. Follows simple commands; 2. Gestural or verbal "yes/no" responses (regardless of accuracy); 3. Intelligible verbalization; 4. Movements of affective behaviors that occur in contingent relation to relevant environmental stimuli and are not attributable to reflexive activity	Reliable and consistent demonstration of at least one of the following: 1. Functional interactive communication; 2. Functional use of one or more objects; 3. Clearly discernable (able to be documented) behavioral manifestation of sense of self If applicable then briefly describe behavior in this space:

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TEST STIMULI BY SUBSCALE

DIRECTIONS: Administer each item and circle the score based on the patient's response to the stimulus. Remember to score the **BEST** response. The subscales can be administered in any order. ***The only item that must be administered 1st is the Social Greeting from the Auditory Language Subscale.***

Auditory Language Subscale			
Test Item	No Response	Generalized Response	Localized Response
Social Greeting "Hi, I'm (say your name), How is it going?"	0	1	2
Follow 1-Step Command (Document command used here)	0	1	2
Follow 1-Step Command (Document command used here)	0	1	2
Name Called	0	1	2
Orientation to Self (Document questions used here) "Is your name _____?" (gender opposite name) "Is your name _____?" (correct name) OR "What is your name?"	0	1	2
Orientation to Environment (Document question here) Yes/no question related to immediate environment. _____	0	1	2
Toothbrush "This is a toothbrush. Brush your teeth."	0	1	2

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Gustation/Olfaction Subscale			
Test Item	No Response	Generalized Response	Localized Response
Juice to Lips and Tongue	0	1	2
Odor 1 (Document Odor used here)	0	1	2
Odor 2 (Document Odor used here)	0	1	2
Masseter Massage	0	1	2
Sweet/Sour Taste	0	1	2

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Visual Subscale			
Test Item	No Response	Generalized Response	Localized Response
Focus on Face (Was mirror used instead of familiar face? Yes No)			
Upper ----->	0	1	2
Middle ----->	0	1	2
Lower ----->	0	1	2
Left ----->	0	1	2
Right ----->	0	1	2
Focus on Object			
FUpper ----->	0	1	2
FMiddle ----->	0	1	2
FLower ----->	0	1	2
FLeft ----->	0	1	2
FRight ----->	0	1	2
Tracking Face (Was mirror used instead of familiar face? Yes No)			
Horizontal ----->	0	1	2
Vertical ----->	0	1	2
Tracking Object			
Horizontal ----->	0	1	2
Vertical ----->	0	1	2

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Somatosensory Subscale			
Test Item	No Response	Generalized Response	Localized Response
Cold Spoon	0	1	2
Vibration to Toe	0	1	2
Cube to Toe	0	1	2
Feather	0	1	2
Joint Range of Motion	0	1	2
Air	0	1	2
Hand Massage	0	1	2
Heat	0	1	2
Scrub to Arm	0	1	2
Swab to Toe	0	1	2
Hair	0	1	2

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TESTING READINESS ITEMS: Circle score or response for each test item

1. Is a third nerve palsy (i.e. third cranial nerve damage-inability to lift eyelids) suspected? YES or NO

2. Is cortical blindness (i.e. optic nerve damage) suspected? YES or NO

3. Is bilateral ptosis (i.e. drooping of the upper eyelid) suspected? YES or NO

4. Auditory Stimuli:

- ☐ Patient required their name to be spoken to re-establish "testing readiness".
- ☐ Patient did not require their name to be spoken to re-establish "testing readiness".

5. Tactile/ Deep Pressure Stimuli:

- ☐ Patient required deep pressure re-establish "testing readiness".
- ☐ Patient did not require deep pressure to re-establish "testing readiness".

6. Passive Movement Stimuli

- ☐ Patient required passive movement to re-establish "testing readiness".
- ☐ Patient did not require passive movement to re-establish "testing readiness".

7. Rolling Stimuli

- ☐ Patient required rolling to re-establish "testing readiness".
- ☐ Patient did not require rolling to re-establish "testing readiness".

8. Rocking Stimuli:

- ☐ Patient required rocking to re-establish "testing readiness".
- ☐ Patient did not require rocking to re-establish "testing readiness".

9. Maintaining State of Testing Readiness:

Did the patient require stimulation throughout the evaluation to maintain a state of testing readiness?

☐ YES ☐ NO

DOCS-25 Raw Score: To obtain the raw score for the DOCS-25 evaluation, sum the response numbers based on quality of response (0,1 or 2) for each item. For the odor, focus on face, focus on object, track face and track object items the best response from multiple trials or directions is used. The raw score will range from 0 -50.

DOCS-25 Raw Score =

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