



Base of Psychopathology

GLASGOW COMA SCALE



Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)

- Is a clinical scale used to reliably measure a person's level of consciousness after a brain injury

The GCS assesses a person based on their ability to perform

- eye movements (E)
- speak (V)
- move their body (M)

A person's GCS score can range from 3 (completely unresponsive) to 15 (responsive)

Developers of the Glasgow Coma Scale

In 1974 Dr. Graham Teasdale & Dr. Bryan Jennett, neurosurgeons from University of Glasgow, published the first iteration of the GCS in the Lancet



[1]



[2]

Teasdale G., Jennett B. Assessment of coma and impaired consciousness: A practical scale. Lancet, 1974 (ii) 81-83.

Glasgow Coma Scale for adults

(Eye response, E)

Scores	Description
4	Eyes opening spontaneously
3	Eye opening to speech. Not to be confused with the awakening of a sleeping person; such people receive a score of 4, not 3
2	Eye opening in response to pain stimulus. A peripheral pain stimulus, such as squeezing the lunula area of the person's fingernail is more effective than a central stimulus such as a squeeze, due to a grimacing effect
1	No opening of the eye

Glasgow Coma Scale for adults

(Verbal response, V)

Scores	Description
5	Oriented. Person responds coherently and appropriately to questions such as the person's name and age, where they are and why, the year, month, etc.
4	Confused. The person responds to questions coherently but there is some disorientation and confusion
3	Inappropriate words. Random or exclamatory articulated speech, but no conversational exchange. Speaks words but no sentences
2	Incomprehensible sounds. Moaning but no words
1	No verbal response

Glasgow Coma Scale for adults

(Motor response, M)

Scores	Description
6	Obeys commands (the person does simple things as asked)
5	Localizes to pain (purposeful movements towards painful stimuli; e.g., brings hand up beyond chin when supraorbital pressure applied)
4	Normal Flexion (absence of abnormal posturing; unable to lift hand past chin with supraorbital pain but does pull away when nailbed is pinched)
3	Abnormal Flexion in response to pain (decorticate posturing)
2	Abnormal Extension in response to pain (decerebrate posturing)
1	No motor response



Pediatric Glasgow Coma Scale

similar to the adult Glasgow Coma Scale
with adaptation for children under 4



Pediatric Glasgow Coma Scale

(Eye response, E)

Scores	Description
4	Eyes opening spontaneously
3	Eye opening to speech
2	Eye opening to pain
1	No eye opening or response

Pediatric Glasgow Coma Scale

(Verbal response, V)

Scores	Description
5	Smiles, oriented to sounds, follows objects, interacts
4	Cries but consolable, inappropriate interactions
3	Inconsistently inconsolable, moaning
2	Inconsolable, agitated
1	No verbal response

Pediatric Glasgow Coma Scale

(Motor response, M)

Scores	Description
6	Infant moves spontaneously or purposefully
5	Infant withdraws from touch
4	Infant withdraws from pain
3	Abnormal flexion to pain for an infant (decorticate posturing)
2	Extension to pain (decerebrate posturing)
1	No motor response

Interpretation of Glasgow Coma Scale Scores

Scores	Description
15	Fully awake and aware person
13-14	Moderate to deep stunning
9-12	Sopor
4-8	Coma
3	Deep coma or brain death