

NIHSS Scale with Hints

Item	Instructions	Scoring	Comatose
1a. Level of Consciousness (LOC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You can tell when you greet the patients - Score 2 if responds to pain - Score 3 if no responds apart from reflexes 	Alert (or awakens easily and stays awake) 0 Drowsy (Not alert, requires minor stimulation) 1 Obtunded (Requires painful stimulation) 2 Comatose (only reflexive movement to pain) 3	2 if responds to pain 3 if only reflexic response
1b. LOC- Questions Month? Age?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Score only First response, no coaching - Score 2 if can't answer due to aphasia - Score 1 if incomprehensible due to dysarthria - Score 1 if intubated 	Both correct 0 One answer correct 1 Neither question answered correctly 2	2
1c. LOC- Commands Opens/closes eyes - Opens/closes hands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use pantomiming if receptive aphasia 	Both correct 0 One correct 1 Neither performed correctly 2	2
2. Eye Movements: Horizontal eye movements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use tracking if aphasic or confused - Use cephalon-ocular reflex if comatose - Score 1 if partial palsy but can cross midline - Score 2 if forced deviation, can't cross midline 	Normal 0 partial palsy (can cross midline) 1 Complete (can't cross midline) 2	0 if intact cephalon-ocular reflex
3. Visual fields:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use visual threat if aphasic or comatose - Score only binocular field defect - Score 0 for Monocular field defect as CRAO - Score 1 for partial field cuts (quadrantanopia), 2 for hemianopia - Score 1 if visual extinction, even if VF is intact! 	Normal 0 Partial hemianopia 1 Complete hemianopia 2 Bilateral hemianopia 3	3 if no response to threat
4. Facial:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aphasic patient: use pantomiming - Comatose/Confused: Use noxious stimulation to produce grimace - Score 1 for subtle UMN facial weakness - Score 2 for obvious UMN facial weakness - Score 3 for LMN facial weakness 	Normal 0 Minor paralysis (flattening of nasolabial folds) 1 Partial paralysis (total paralysis lower face) 2 Complete paralysis (Of upper and lower face) 3	3
5. Motor –Arm Hold arm straight out from chest at 45° if supine and 90° if sitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - You can help the patient placing the limb in desired position - Count loudly and show counting fingers as visual cue - Don't score the initial dip, score only if it continues to drift - Aphasic: Use pantomiming - Confused: Observe arm movement, is he moving against gravity? - Score 4 if no movement at all (can't make a shoulder shrug) - Score NA if amputated or joint fusion/cast etc 	Normal (No drift at all) 0 Drift (Drifts downward but NOT to bed) 1 Drifts to bed within 10 sec 2 Movement, but not against gravity 3 Complete paralysis (No movement at all) 4	4
6a. Motor –leg Keep leg off bed at 30°		Normal (No drift at all) 0 Drift (Drifts downward but NOT to bed.) 1 Drifts to bed within 5 sec 2 Movement, but not against gravity 3 Complete paralysis (No movement at all) 4	4
7. Limb Ataxia:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do both Heel-Shin & Finger-Nose - Score only if present and out of proportion of weakness - Score 0 if paralyzed or comatose - Score NA if amputated or joint fusion 	Absent 0 In one limb 1 In two limbs 2	0
8. Sensory (Test on face, arm & thigh)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use pin prick on proximal limbs - Confused, look for patient reaction to pin prick - Comatose: scores 3 	Normal 0 Mild to moderate loss 1 Severe (unaware of being touched) 2	2
9. Language/Aphasia Repetition & Comprehension "Today is a bright sunny day"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If blind: give objects at hand and ask to name - Score 2 if mute but able to follow commands - Score 3 if mute and can't understand commands - Comatose: score 3 	Normal ability use words and follow commands 0 Mild to Moderate (difficulty repeating/naming) 1 Severe (very few words correct or understood) 2 Mute/global (Mute and can't or understand) 3	3
10. Dysarthria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aphasic, can't read: score based on bedside speech - Score NA if Intubated or other physical barrier 	Normal 0 Mild to moderate 1 Severe (not understandable) 2	2
11. Extinction : Ignores touch or vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simultaneous bilateral visual/tactile stimulation, score only if present - If visual extinction is present, patient has to get at least 1 on VF - Blind: score only tactile extinction if present - Score 1, if nt extinction but there is evidence of other form of neglect 	Normal (visual, tactile, spatial) 0 Mild (only one modality) 1 Profound (2 or more modalities) 2	2