

# Child's Glasgow Coma Scale

Revised BPNA 2001

*Pain* should be made by pressing hard on the supra-orbital notch (beneath medial end of eyebrow) with your thumb, except for M4, which is tested by pressing hard on the flat nail surface with the barrel of a pencil.

Score the best response with unclear or asymmetrical. If in doubt repeat after 5 minutes and ask for help.

Score as usual in the presence of sedative drugs. Plot over time on an appropriate chart e.g. Child's Neurological Assessment Chart.

>5 years

<5 years

## Eye opening

E4	Spontaneous
E3	To voice
E2	To pain
E1	None
C	Eyes closed (by swelling or bandage)

## Verbal

V5	Orientated (in person or place or address)	Alert, babbles, coos, words or sentences to usual ability (normal)
V4	Confused	Less than usual ability, irritable cry
V3	Inappropriate words	Cries to pain
V2	Incomprehensible sounds	Moans to pain
V1	No response to pain	
T	Intubated	

## Motor

M6	Obeys commands	Normal spontaneous movements
M5	Localises to supraorbital pain (>9 months of age) or withdraws to touch	
M4	Withdraws from nailbed pain	
M3	Flexion to supraorbital pain (decorticate)	
M2	Extension to supraorbital pain (decerebrate)	
M1	No response to supraorbital pain (flaccid)	

**Acknowledgments:** The *Child's Glasgow Coma Scale* has evolved from adaptations to Jennett and Teasdale's *Glasgow Coma Scale* (1), by James and Trauner (2), Eyre and Sharples and by Tatman, Warren and Whitehouse (3), and paediatric nurse colleagues, Kirkham and the British Paediatric Neurology Association GCS Audit Group. The *Chart* design is after Warren and Noons in association with the National Paediatric Neuroscience Benchmarking Group.

**References:** 1: Jennett & Teasdale. *Lancet* 1977;i:878-881. 2: James & Trauner. *Brain insults in infants and children*. Orlando: Grune & Stratton, 1985:179-182. 3: Tatman, Warren, Williams, Powell, Whitehouse. *Archives of Disease in Childhood* 1997;**77**:519-521.

**Next revision:** 2003

C:\ww\Child GCS4.