

Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol (CIWA-Ar)

Agency Name: _____

Site Name: _____

ID #: _____

Date: ___ / ___ / _____

For each section, ask the prompts and/or observe behavior.

1. Time:

24 hour clock, midnight=00:00

___:___

2. Pulse or heart rate, taken for one minute

___ bpm

3. Blood pressure

___/___ mm/Hg

4. NAUSEA AND VOMITING

Do you feel sick to your stomach? Have you vomited?

No nausea and no vomiting 0

Mild nausea with no vomiting 1

2

3

Intermittent nausea with dry heaves 4

5

6

Constant nausea, frequent dry heaves and vomiting 7

5. TACTILE DISTURBANCES

Have you any itching, pins and needles sensations, any burning, any numbness, or do you feel bugs crawling on or under your skin?

None 0

Very mild itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness 1

Mild itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness 2

Moderate itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness 3

Moderately severe hallucinations 4

Severe hallucinations 5

Extremely severe hallucinations 6

Continuous hallucinations 7

6. TREMOR

Arms extended and fingers spread apart.

No tremor 0

Not visible, but can be felt fingertip to fingertip 1

2

3

Moderate, with patient's arms extended 4

5

6

Severe, even with arms not extended 7

7. AUDITORY DISTURBANCES

Are you more aware of sounds around you? Are they harsh? Do they frighten you? Are you hearing anything that is disturbing to you? Are you hearing things you know are not there?

- Not present 0
 Very mild harshness or ability to frighten 1
 Mild harshness or ability to frighten 2
 Moderate harshness or ability to frighten 3
 Moderately severe hallucinations 4
 Severe hallucinations 5
 Extremely severe hallucinations 6
 Continuous hallucinations 7

8. PAROXYSMAL SWEATS

- No sweat visible 0
 Barely perceptible sweating, palms moist 1
2
3
 Beads of sweat obvious on forehead 4
5
6
 Drenching sweats 7

9. VISUAL DISTURBANCES

Does the light appear to be too bright? Is its color different? Does it hurt your eyes? Are you seeing anything that is disturbing to you? Are you seeing things you know are not there?

- Not present 0
 Very mild sensitivity 1
 Mild sensitivity 2
 Moderate sensitivity 3
 Moderately severe hallucinations 4
 Severe hallucinations 5
 Extremely severe hallucinations 6
 Continuous hallucinations 7

10. ANXIETY

Do you feel nervous?

- No anxiety, at ease 0
 Mild anxious 1
2
3
 Moderately anxious, or guarded, so anxiety is inferred 4
5
6
 Equivalent to acute panic states as seen in severe delirium or acute schizophrenic reactions 7

ID #: _____

Date: ____/____/____

11. HEADACHE, FULLNESS IN HEAD

Does your head feel different? Does it feel like there is a band around your head?
Do not rate for dizziness or lightheadedness. Otherwise, rate severity.

- Not present 0
- Very mild 1
- Mild 2
- Moderate 3
- Moderately severe 4
- Severe 5
- Very severe 6
- Extremely severe 7

12. AGITATION

- Normal activity 0
 - Somewhat more than normal activity 1
 - 2
 - 3
 - Moderately fidgety and restless 4
 - 5
 - 6
 - 7
- Paces back and forth during most of the interview or constantly thrashes about 7

13. ORIENTATION AND CLOUDING OF SENSORIUM

What day is this? Where are you? Who am I?

- Oriented and can do serial additions 0
- Cannot do serial additions or is uncertain about date 1
- Disoriented for date by no more than 2 calendar days 2
- Disoriented for date by more than 2 calendar days 3
- Disoriented for place/or person 4

14. Total Score: _____

Maximum Possible Score=67

Patients scoring less than 10 do not usually need additional medication for withdrawal.

Reference: Sullivan JT; Sykora K; Schneiderman J; Naranjo CA; Sellers EM. Assessment of alcohol withdrawal: The revised Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol scale (CIWA-AR). Br J Addict 1989;84:1353-1357.