

OOWS

Objective Opiate Withdrawal Scale

Name:

Observe the patient during a 5 minute observation period then indicate a score for each of the opioid withdrawal signs listed below. Add the scores for each item to obtain the total score.				Date							
				Time							
1	Yawning (one or more during observations)	[0] no yawns	[1] > 1 yawn								
2	Rhinorrhoea (greater than three sniffs during observation)	[0] < 3 sniffs	[1] > 3 sniffs								
3	Piloerection (gooseflesh – observe patient's arm)	[0] absent	[1] present								
4	Perspiration	[0] absent	[1] present								
5	Lacrimation	[0] absent	[1] present								
6	Tremor (hands)	[0] absent	[1] present								
7	Mydriasis (dilated pupils)	[0] absent	[1] ≥ 3 mm								
8	Hot and cold flushes (shivering or huddling for warmth)	[0] absent	[1] shivering / huddling for warmth								
9	Restlessness (frequent shifts in position)	[0] absent	[1] frequent changes in position								
10	Vomiting	[0] absent	[1] present								
11	Muscle twitches	[0] absent	[1] present								
12	Abdominal cramps (holding stomach)	[0] absent	[1] holding stomach								
13	Anxiety	[0] absent	[1] mild-severe								
Total											
Initials											

Source: Handelsman L, Cochrane KJ, Aronson MJ, Ness R, Rubinstein KJ, Kanof PD. Two new rating scales for opiate withdrawal. Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse. 1987;13(3):293-308. doi: 10.3109/00952998709001515

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