

Completing the National Early Warning Scoring (NEWS) Tool

The NEWS Tool was developed in the UK by the Royal College of Physicians. It is focused on the early detection of changes in patient acuity/status that would also impact patient assignment. The initial score is a “baseline”, but changes in the patient's condition might require a discussion from the team that would impact assignment. This tool is used, in addition to the PCNA tool, to help determine whether or not patient assignment is RN only, RN/RPN collaborative, RN or RPN.

How to Complete the NEWS

- Complete at least 60 minutes before end of every shift
- Use the laminated reference sheet
- Circle the boxes that apply and enter total score
- Enter the score and record on page 1 of the PST
- NEWS score will be recorded on Care Round Board during daily round

Care Provider Assessment: NEWS and PCNA							
Circle the indicators reflecting patient status on admission and throughout patient stay when clinical changes in patient condition occur to assist with determination of appropriate category of care provider and identify acuity changes- ensure updated ½ hr before end of shift. Record on page 1 of this tool. Note that NEWS is to be used for acute conditions for trending of changes requiring escalation in care. Results for Palliative patients or chronic conditions such as COPD need discussion with the team to determine appropriate category of care provider in these circumstances utilizing the PCNA tool.							
RN or RPN		RN/RPN Collaborative			RN		
NEWS	Score						
Physiologic Parameter	3	2	1	0	1	2	3
Respiration Rate	Less than or equal to 8		9-11	12-20		21-24	Greater than or equal to 25
SpO2	Less than or equal to 91%	92-93%	94-95%	Greater than or equal to 96%			
Supplemental O2		Yes		No			
Temperature (C)	Less than or equal to 35.0C		35.1-36.0C	36.1-38.0C	38.1-39.0C	Greater than or equal to 39.1C	
Systolic BP	Less than or equal to 90	91-100	101-110	111-219			Greater than or equal to 220
Pulse Rate	Less than or equal to 40		41-50	51-90	91-110	111-130	Greater than or equal to 131
Level of Consciousness				Alert			Agitated or Confused to Voice (Vague) to pain Unresponsive
Score Total							

Scoring

- Initial score is a “baseline” score
- Calculate the score prior to shift change as a measure of patient acuity (change in patient's condition)
- All indicators “green” - Any Nurse (RN or RPN)
- One or more indicators “yellow” - Collaborative RPN / RN
- One or more indicators “red” - requires additional discussion between RN & RPN to determine assignment

RN or RPN	RN/RPN Collaborative	RN
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****NEWS score should be re-calculated any time the patient's acuity changes***