

Completing the Patient Care Needs Assessment Tool (PCNA)

The PCNA is a tool that helps determine the appropriate nursing assignment for the patient. It matches the CNO Standards by looking at stability, complexity, predictability and risk for negative outcomes to ensure correct patient assignments. This tool is used, in addition to the NEWS tool, to help determine whether or not patient assignment is RN only, RN/RPN collaborative, RN or RPN.

How to Complete the PCNA

- Complete at least 60 minutes before end of every shift
- Use the laminated reference sheet
- Refer to questions 1-10 to help assess needs
- Read questions 11 - 14 and circle boxes that apply
- Enter the score and record the score on page 1 of the Patient Summary Tool (PST) prior to shift change

PCNA Summary - See full tool for all parameters.						
Overall, how stable is this patient?	Very Stable			Very Unstable		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Overall, how complex is this patient?	Less Complex			Highly Complex		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Overall, how predictable is this patient?	Very Predictable			Less Predictable		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Overall, how at risk is this patient for negative outcomes?	Less Risk			High Risk		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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Scoring

RN/RPN team review the scores of both NEWS and PCNA tools and determine most appropriate provider.

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