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APGAR Score

Core Nursing Essentials Clinical Scales & Assessment Tools

APGAR summarizes appearance, pulse, grimace, activity and respiration. Scores support documentation after birth and do not replace immediate clinical assessment.

For educational purposes only.

Introduction & key concepts

APGAR summarizes appearance, pulse, grimace, activity and respiration. Scores support documentation after birth and do not replace immediate clinical assessment.

Nursing responsibilities

- Check identity, consent, the relevant observations and the purpose of the assessment.
- Record the finding, context and response using the approved clinical record.
- Escalate uncertainty or deterioration to the responsible professional; do not use a study note as a standing treatment order.

Clinical example & examination focus

In a viva, explain apgar score in your own words, identify the observations needed and state a limitation. Compare the finding with the patient's baseline rather than assuming one number or label gives a diagnosis.

Quick Revision

APGAR summarizes appearance, pulse, grimace, activity and respiration. Scores support documentation after birth and do not replace immediate clinical assessment.

Frequently asked question

Can this summary replace practical training?

No. Use your prescribed learning material and the institution's current protocol with qualified supervision.

References & review status

- AAP/ACOG - The Apgar Score (https://publications.aap.org/pediatrics/article/136/4/819/73821/The-Apgar-Score) - 2015 statement; source listing checked 26 November 2026. The score is documentation, not an initial resuscitation trigger.

Sources checked for the stated scope on 26 November 2026. Original study synthesis; independent clinical review is not claimed. Source attribution is not a copyright-clearance certificate.

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