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Glasgow Coma Scale

Core Nursing Essentials Clinical Scales & Assessment Tools

GCS records eye, verbal and motor responses separately. Use the official structured approach and explain factors that make any component untestable.

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Introduction & key concepts

GCS records eye, verbal and motor responses separately. Use the official structured approach and explain factors that make any component untestable.

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 glasgow coma scale 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

GCS records eye, verbal and motor responses separately. Use the official structured approach and explain factors that make any component untestable.

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

- Glasgow Coma Scale - official structured approach (https://www.glasgowcomascale.org/) - Official resource and permissions page accessed 26 November 2026. Component arithmetic only. GCS University of Glasgow; assessment aid Sir Graham Teasdale.

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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