Nurses Content
Downloaded from nursescontent.com

AVPU scale

Core Nursing Essentials Core Clinical Concepts

AVPU records alertness or response to voice, pain or neither. A new reduction in responsiveness needs prompt clinical assessment rather than observation alone.

For educational purposes only.

Introduction & key concepts

AVPU records alertness or response to voice, pain or neither. A new reduction in responsiveness needs prompt clinical assessment rather than observation alone.

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 avpu 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

AVPU records alertness or response to voice, pain or neither. A new reduction in responsiveness needs prompt clinical assessment rather than observation alone.

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

- WHO-ICRC Basic Emergency Care (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241513081) - 2018; course materials updated separately. ABCDE and recognition framework; original short synthesis, no copied diagrams.

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.

This content is provided for nursing education and academic reference only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, institutional clinical protocols or supervised clinical practice.

This content is provided for nursing education and academic reference only. It is not a substitute for professional medical advice, institutional clinical protocols or supervised clinical practice.

Source and attribution

Original concise teaching synthesis. WHO-ICRC Basic Emergency Care (https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241513081)

Online chapter: https://nursescontent.com/essentials/core-clinical-concepts/avpu-scale/

Downloaded from Nurses Content. Branding identifies the delivery website. Original author credits, third-party licences and applicable rights remain unchanged.

Nurses Content