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Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS)

Core Nursing Essentials Core Clinical Concepts

Record eye, verbal and motor responses separately. Sedation, intubation, language and injury can make a component untestable; never replace an untestable component with an invented score.

For educational purposes only.

Introduction & key concepts

Record eye, verbal and motor responses separately. Sedation, intubation, language and injury can make a component untestable; never replace an untestable component with an invented score.

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 (gcs) 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

Record eye, verbal and motor responses separately. Sedation, intubation, language and injury can make a component untestable; never replace an untestable component with an invented score.

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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