

## Clinical Opiate Withdrawal (COWS)

For each item, write in the number that best describes the patient's signs or symptom. Rate on just the apparent relationship to opiate withdrawal. For example, if heart rate is increased because the patient was exerting self just prior to assessment, the increase pulse rate would not add to the score.

Times:				
<b>Resting Pulse Rate:</b> (record beats per minute) 0 pulse rate 80 or below, 1 pulse rate 81-100, 2 pulse rate 101-120, 4 pulse rate greater than 120				
<b>Sweating:</b> 0 nil, 1 subjective report of chills or flushing, 2 flushed or observable moistness on face, 3 beads of sweat on brow or face, 4 sweat streaming off face				
<b>Restlessness</b> <i>Observation during assessment</i> 0 able to sit still, 1 reports difficulty sitting still, but is able to do so, 3 frequent shifting or extraneous movements of legs/arms, 5 Unable to sit still for more than a few seconds				
<b>Pupil size</b> 0 pupils pinned or normal size for room light, 1 pupils possibly larger than normal for room light, 2 pupils moderately dilated, 5 pupils very dilated				
<b>Bone or Joint aches</b> 0 not present, 1 mild diffuse discomfort, 2 patient reports severe diffuse aching of joints/ muscles, 4 unable to sit still because of discomfort				
<b>Runny nose or tearing</b> 0 not present, 1 nasal stuffiness or unusually moist eyes 2 nose running or tearing, 4 nose constantly running or tears streaming down cheeks				
<b>GI Upset:</b> <i>over last ½ hour</i> 0 no GI symptoms, 1 stomach cramps, 2 nausea or loose stool, 3 vomiting or diarrhea, 5 Multiple episodes of diarrhea or vomiting				
<b>Tremor</b> <i>observation of outstretched hands</i> 0 No tremor, 1 tremor can be felt, but not observed 2 slight tremor observable, 4 gross tremor, twitching				
<b>Yawning</b> <i>Observation during assessment</i> 0 no yawning 1 yawning once or twice during assessment 2 yawning three or more times during assessment 4 yawning several times/minute				
<b>Anxiety or Irritability</b> 0 none, 1 patient reports increasing irritability or anxiousness, 2 patient obviously irritable anxious 4 patient so irritable or anxious that participation in the assessment is difficult				
<b>Gooseflesh skin</b> 0 skin is smooth, 3 piloerection of skin can be felt or hairs standing up on arms, 5 prominent piloerection				
<b>Total score</b>				

Score: 5-12 = mild; 13-24 = moderate; 25-36 = moderately severe; more than 36 = severe withdrawal