Ramsay Sedation Scale

Patient's name: _____ Date: _____ dd / mm / yyyy

Medical record no.: _____ Unit / bed: _____

Sedative agent and rate: _____ Assessed by: _____

HOW TO USE

The Ramsay Sedation Scale grades depth of sedation on six levels, from agitated to unresponsive. Assess by observing the patient, then speaking to them, then applying a light glabellar tap or a loud auditory stimulus if there is no response.

Set a target before you titrate

Record the target level agreed for this patient alongside each observation. Most ventilated patients are managed at a light level, commonly Ramsay 2 to 3, unless a deeper level is clinically indicated.

LEVELS

Level 1 — Awake: Anxious, agitated or restless, or both

Level 2 — Awake: Cooperative, oriented and tranquil

Level 3 — Awake: Responds to commands only

Level 4 — Asleep: Brisk response to a light glabellar tap or a loud auditory stimulus

Level 5 — Asleep: Sluggish response to a light glabellar tap or a loud auditory stimulus

Level 6 — Asleep: No response to a light glabellar tap or a loud auditory stimulus

OBSERVATION RECORD

Time: _____ Ramsay: _____

Target: _____ Agent and rate: _____

Change made: _____ Initials: _____

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Target: _____ Agent and rate: _____

Change made: _____ Initials: _____

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Target: _____ Agent and rate: _____

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RAMSAY AGAINST RASS

Many US units chart the Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale instead, which runs from +4 combative to -5 unarousable with 0 as alert and calm. The two are not interchangeable; record which scale your unit uses and keep to it.

DAILY SEDATION HOLD, DELIRIUM SCREENING AND WEANING PLAN

Daily sedation hold, delirium screening and weaning plan

Sources: Ramsay MA, Savege TM, Simpson BR, Goodwin R. Controlled sedation with alphaxalone-alphadolone. BMJ. 1974;2(5920):656–659. · General-purpose record sheet. Follow your unit's sedation protocol.