CANADIAN NEUROLOGICAL SCALE – Quick Reference Sheet

Alert or Drowsy ➔ CNS　　　　**Stuporous or Comatose ➔ GCS**

MENTATION

LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS	SCORE
Alert – *If spontaneous eye opening, normal level of consciousness*	**Alert: 3.0**
Drowsy – *When stimulated verbally remains awake and alert for short periods but tends to dose off*	**Drowsy: 1.5**

ORIENTATION

Ask patient:
1) Where are you? *(City and Hospital)*
2) What is the month and year? *(If early in the month, first 3 days of previous month are acceptable). Speech can be slurred BUT must be intelligible*

	SCORE
Oriented – *Patient states both place and time correctly*	**Oriented: 1.0**
Disoriented – *If patient cannot state both place and time, or cannot express answers in words or intelligible speech*	**Disoriented or N/A: 0.0**

SPEECH

Receptive Speech Testing (i.e. understands simple commands)

Ask patient:	
1) Close your eyes 2) Point to the ceiling 3) Does a stone sink in water?	*Do not mimic commands*

If patient CORRECTLY completes all above, continue to:	If patient CANNOT correctly complete all above:

Expressive Speech Testing (i.e. able to communicate)	SCORE		SCORE
Show patient three objects: key, watch, pen Ask patient:　1) Name all 3 objects 　　　　　　2) The use of each object *Must name all 3 objects and state use of each to score as Normal 1.0* *If any error, mispronounces words or non-intelligible words (severe dysarthria) score as Expressive Deficit 0.5* *If speech is slurred but understandable, score as Normal and indicate "SL"*	**Expressive Deficit: 0.5** **Normal: 1.0**	Score as Receptive Deficit 0.0, then proceed to **A2: Motor Response** (Receptive Deficit Present)	**Receptive Deficit: 0.0**

MOTOR RESPONSE

A1: MOTOR RESPONSE *(Normal Speech or Expressive Deficit Present)*	SCORE	**A2: MOTOR RESPONSE** *(Receptive Deficit Present)*	SCORE
Face Ask the patient to smile/grin, note symmetry of mouth and nasal labial folds.	**Symmetrical: 0.5** **Present: 0.0 + R/L**	**Face** Have patient mimic a grin, show teeth or gums, and note symmetry of nasal labial folds. If the patient is unable to grin/smile with mimics, apply pressure to sternum, and note symmetry. **Record side with WORST deficit with an "R" or "L"**	**Symmetrical: 0.5** **Asymmetrical: 0.0 + R/L**

Proceed with the following grading system:

None:	1.5 (No detectable weakness, limb outstretched 90° x5 sec AND withstands resistance)
Mild:	1.0 (Limb outstretched 90° x5 sec BUT succumbs to resistance)
Significant:	0.5 (Limb outstretched cannot maintain 90° x5 sec against gravity – resistance is not done)
Total:	0.0 (Absence of movement OR muscle contraction without movement)
Always record side with WORST deficit with "R" or "L"	

	SCORE		SCORE
Arms (Proximal) Tested in Sitting or Lying Sitting: Elevate patient's arms to shoulder level & apply resistance below shoulders (ask patient to resist you or don't let me push your down) Lying: Elevate arms to 45° to 90° x5 sec & apply resistance below shoulders	**None: 1.5** **Mild: 1.0** **Significant: 0.5** **Total: 0.0**	**Arms** Place patient's outstretched arms in front at 90° – must hold for 5 sec. If patient unable to perform compare response when pressure is applied to nailbeds bilaterally. **Note equal/unequal motor response, record side with WORST deficit with "R" or "L"**	**Equal: 1.5** **Unequal: 0.0 + R/L**
Arms (Distal) Tested in Sitting or Lying Sitting/Lying: Outstretch arms, wrists cocked back (dorsiflexed hands), support arms while applying pressure between wrists and knuckles	**None: 1.5** **Mild: 1.0** **Significant: 0.5** **Total: 0.0**	**Legs** Bring thighs toward trunk 90° with knees flexed – must hold for 5 sec. If patient unable to perform compare response when pressure is applied to nailbeds bilaterally. **Note equal/unequal motor response, record side with WORST deficit with "R" or "L"**	**Equal 1.5** **Unequal 0.0 + R/L**
Legs (Proximal) Tested Lying Lying: Thighs brought toward body 90° keeping knees flexed x5 sec; push down on each thigh one at a time	**None: 1.5** **Mild: 1.0** **Significant: 0.5** **Total: 0.0**	Quick Notes: 1) DO NOT complete all sections of the tool. If: 　i. Normal/Expressive Deficit ➔ Mentation + A1 section *OR* 　ii. Receptive Deficit ➔ Mentation + A2 Section 2) ROM ability against gravity will differentiate grading level of weakness 3) Outstretched limb is 90° x5 sec for normal	
Legs (Distal) Tested Sitting or Lying Sitting/Lying: Toes and feet point upward toward head; pushdown on each foot, one at a time	**None: 1.5** **Mild: 1.0** **Significant: 0.5** **Total: 0.0**		