

### **RICHMOND AGITATION-SEDATION SCALE**

Score	Term	Description
(+) 4	Combative	Overtly combative or violent; immediate danger to staff
(+) 3	Very Agitated	Pulls on or removes tube(s) or catheter(s) or has aggressive behavior toward staff
(+) 2	Agitated	Frequent nonpurposeful movement or patient-ventilator dyssynchrony
(+) 1	Restless	anxious or apprehensive but movements not aggressive or vigorous
0	Alert and calm	
(-) 1	Drowsy	Not fully alert, but has sustained (more than 10 seconds) awakening, with eye contact, to voice
(-) 2	Light sedation	Briefly (less than 10 seconds) awakens with eye contact to voice
(-) 3	Moderate sedation	Any movement (but no eye contact) to voice
(-) 4	Deep Sedation	No response to voice, but any movement to physical stimulation
(-) 5	Un-arousable	No response to voice or physical stimulation
<b>Procedure</b>		
1. Observe patient. Is patient alert and calm (score 0)? Does patient have behavior that is consistent with restlessness or agitation (score +1 to +4 using the criteria listed above, under description)?		
2. If the patient is not alert, in a loud speaking voice state patient's name and direct patient to open eyes and look at speaker. Repeat once if necessary. Can prompt patient to continue looking at speaker. Patient has eye opening and eye contact, which is sustained for more than 10 seconds (score -1). Patient has eye opening and eye contact, but this is not sustained for 10 seconds (score -2). Patient has any movement in response to voice, excluding eye contact (score -3).		
3. If patient does not respond to voice, physically stimulate patient by shaking shoulder and then rubbing sternum if there is no response to shaking shoulder. Patient has any movement to physical stimulation (score -4). Patient has no response to voice or physical stimulation (score -5).		

#### References

1. Sessler CN, Gosnell M, Grap MJ, Brophy GT, O'Neal PV, Keane KA et al. The Richmond Agitation-Sedation Scale: validity and reliability in adult intensive care patients. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med* 2002;166:1338-1344.