

CIWA-Ar Pocket Guide

Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment of Alcohol Scale, Revised (CIWA-Ar)

1. Nausea and Vomiting

0 no nausea and no vomiting

.

7 Constant nausea

2. Tremor

0 no tremor

.

7 severe, even with arms not extended

3. Tactile Disturbances

0 none

.

7 continuous hallucinations

4. Paroxysmal Sweats

0 no sweat visible

.

7 drenching sweats

5. Visual Disturbances

0 not present

.

7 continuous hallucinations

6. Auditory Disturbances

0 not present

.

7 continuous hallucinations

7. Anxiety

0 no anxiety, at ease

.

7 equivalent to acute panic states as seen in severe delirium or acute schizophrenic reactions

8. Headache

0 not present

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7 extremely severe

9. Agitation

0 normal activity

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7 paces back and forth during most of the interview, or constantly thrashes about

10. Orientation

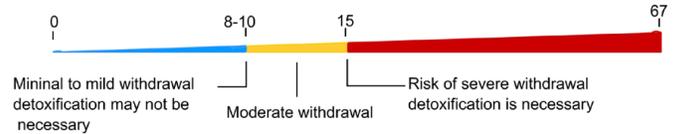
0 oriented and can do serial additions

.

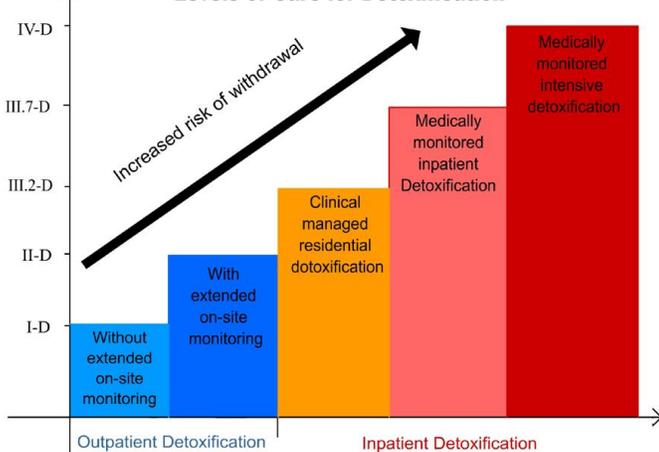
4 disoriented for place or person

Total CIWA-Ar score =

Results Interpretation



Levels of Care for Detoxification



Assess the Level of Intoxication

Subjective Assessment

- Slurred speech
- Incoordination
- Unsteady gait
- Nystagmus
- Impairment in attention or memory
- Stupor or coma

Objective Assessment

- Blood test
- Breathalyzer

+

Results

Indications for inpatient detoxification:

- Current symptoms of moderate to severe alcohol withdrawal
- History of DTs or withdrawal seizures
- Inability to tolerate oral medication
- Imminent risk of harm to self or others
- Recurrent risk of harm to self or others
- Reasonable likelihood that the patient will not complete ambulatory detoxification
- Active psychosis or severe cognitive impairment

Signs & Symptoms of Alcohol Withdrawal

- Autonomic hyperactivity (e.g., diaphoresis, tachycardia, and elevated blood pressure)
- Increased hand tremor
- Insomnia
- Nausea and vomiting
- Transient visual, tactile, or auditory hallucinations or illusions
- Delirium tremens (DTs)
- Psychomotor agitation
- Anxiety
- Irritability
- Grand mal seizures