

OBJECTIVE OPIOID WITHDRAWAL SCALE (OOWS)

Observe the patient during a 5 minute observation period then indicate a score for each of the opioid withdrawal signs listed below (items 1-13).

Add the scores for each item to obtain the total score

DATE							
TIME							

1	Yawning 0 = no yawns 1 = ≥ 1 yawn						
2	Rhinorrhoea 0 = < 3 sniffs 1 = ≥ 3 sniffs						
3	Piloerection (observe arm) 0 = absent 1 = present						
4	Perspiration 0 = absent 1 = present						
5	Lacrimation 0 = absent 1 = present						
6	Tremor (hands) 0 = absent 1 = present						
7	Mydriasis 0 = absent 1 = ≥ 3 mm						
8	Hot and cold flushes 0 = absent 1 = shivering / huddling for warmth						
9	Restlessness 0 = absent 1 = frequent shifts of position						
10	Vomiting 0 = absent 1 = present						
11	Muscle twitches 0 = absent 1 = present						
12	Abdominal cramps 0 = absent 1 = Holding stomach						
13	Anxiety 0 = absent 1 = mild - severe						
TOTAL SCORE							

OOWS

The Objective Opiate Withdrawal Scale (OOWS) provides an objective measure of the severity of opiate withdrawal symptoms. This tool may be used as part of initial assessment, for ongoing monitoring to assess their response to medication. The OOWS is frequently used when monitoring withdrawal using Buprenorphine.

Scoring:

Encourage the patient to score down the columns placing a score from 0 – 1 (symptom present or absent) for each item. Add the total score for possible range from 0 – 13.