## GLASGOW COMA SCALE

### Eye Opening Response
- Spontaneous – open with blinking at baseline: 4 points
- To verbal stimuli, command, speech: 3 points
- To pain only (not applied to face): 2 points
- No response: 1 point

### Verbal Response
- Oriented: 5 points
- Confused conversation, but able to answer questions: 4 points
- Inappropriate words: 3 points
- Incomprehensible speech: 2 points
- No response: 1 point

### Motor Response
- Obey commands for movement: 6 points
- Purposeful movement to painful stimulus: 5 points
- Withdraws in response to pain: 4 points
- Flexion in response to pain (decorticate posturing): 3 points
- Extension response in response to pain (decerebrate posturing): 2 points
- No response: 1 point

### Head Injury Classification:
- Severe Head Injury: GCS score of 8 or less
- Moderate Head Injury: GCS score of 9 to 12
- Mild Head Injury: GCS score of 13 to 15

### Categorization:
**Coma:** No eye opening, no ability to follow commands, no word verbalizations (3-8)

### References
Teasdale G, Jennett B. Assessment of coma and impaired consciousness. Lancet 1974; 81-84.

### Disclaimer
Based on motor responsiveness, verbal performance, and eye opening to appropriate stimuli, the Glasgow Coma Scale was designed and should be used to assess the depth and duration coma and impaired consciousness. This scale helps to gauge the impact of a wide variety of conditions such as acute brain damage due to traumatic and/or vascular injuries or infections, metabolic disorders (e.g., hepatic or renal failure, hypoglycemia, diabetic ketosis), etc. **Education is necessary to the proper application of this scale.**


**Source:** Adapted from Glasgow Coma Scale, Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, NC.