

## Encephalopathy using the GCS

### ▶ Encephalopathy

- Definition: Global cerebral dysfunction in the absence of structural brain disease\*

#### Types of Encephalopathy include:

Septic Encephalopathy	Metabolic Encephalopathy
Toxic Encephalopathy	Hypertensive Encephalopathy
Hepatic Encephalopathy with/without coma	Anoxic Encephalopathy
Hypoglycemic Encephalopathy	Traumatic Encephalopathy

- ▶ AMS caused by a medical diagnosis is encephalopathy.
  
- ▶ Consider adding GCS scores to your documentation
  - Be sure to document the individual GCS scores as there are corresponding ICD-10 codes for the individual scores which demonstrate a high level of illness (when appropriate)
  - There are ICD-10 codes for the total score, however they do not show the same level of illness on paper as the individual scores when the individual scores are abnormal
  - Please note that EMT and/or nursing documentation of the GCS is acceptable for coding per Coding Clinic

\*Chen, R, Young, GB. Metabolic Encephalopathies. In: Bolton, CF, Young, GB, (Eds), Bailliere's Clinical Neurology, Bailliere Tindall, London 1996. p.577.

<http://www.acphospitalist.org/archives/2015/01/coding.htm>

## Glasgow Coma Scale

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Response</b>	<b>Score</b>
<b>Eye Opening</b>	<b>Spontaneously</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>To Speech</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>To Pain</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>No Response</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Best Verbal Response</b>	<b>Oriented x3</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Confused</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Inappropriate words</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Incomprehensible words</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>No Response</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Best Motor Response</b>	<b>Obeys Commands</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>Moves to pain</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>Withdraws from pain</b>	<b>4</b>
	<b>Abnormal flexion (decorticate)</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>Abnormal extension (decerebrate)</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>No Response</b>	<b>1</b>

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