



Neonatal Drug Withdrawal: Lipsitz Scoring Tool

Instructions: Score each category with the highest score in that time interval. Score every 3 hours for first 72 hours (if exposed to narcotics or opiates) or for first 96 hours (if exposed to Methadone or Suboxone).

A total score of 4 is recommended for initiation of pharmacologic treatment.

Name: _____
 DOB: _____
 MR#: _____
 Patient Identification Label

Date: _____ Day of Life: _____ (DOB=DOL #1)

SIGNS	SCORING CATEGORIES				INTERVALS (NOTE TIME in column)								COMMENTS
	Score 0	Score 1	Score 2	Score 3									Time and Initial
Tremors (muscle activity of limbs)	Normal	Minimally increased when hungry or disturbed	Moderate/marked increase when undisturbed; stop when fed or cuddled	Marked increase or continuous even when undisturbed, going on to seizure-like movements									
Irritability (excessive crying)	None	Slightly increased	Moderate to severe irritability when disturbed or hungry	Marked irritability even when undisturbed									
Reflexes	Normal	Increased	Markedly increased										
Stools	Normal	Explosive, but frequency ≤ 8 /day	Explosive, > 8 per day										
Muscle Tone	Normal	Increased	Rigidity										
Skin Abrasions	No	Redness of elbows, heels, pressure points when supine	Breakdown of skin at pressure points										
Respiratory Rate (bpm)	<55	55-75	76-95										
Repetitive Sneezing	No	Yes											
Repetitive Yawning	No	Yes											
Forceful Vomiting	No	Yes											
Fever $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or $>100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$	No	Yes											
TOTAL SCORE													
Signatures with Initials	<i>Nurse Signatures</i>												