

Glasgow Coma Score (GCS)

The Glasgow Coma Score (GCS) is scored between 3 and 15, 3 being the worst, and 15 the best. It is composed of three parameters: Best Eye-Opening Response, Best Verbal Response, Best Motor Response, as given below:

Best Eye-Opening Response (4)

1. No eye opening
2. Eye opening to pain
3. Eye opening to verbal command
4. Eyes open spontaneously

Best Verbal Response (5)

1. No verbal response
2. Incomprehensible sounds
3. Inappropriate words
4. Confused
5. Orientated

Best Motor Response (6)

1. No motor response
2. Extension to pain
3. Flexion to pain
4. Withdrawal from pain
5. Localising pain
6. Obeys commands

When documenting GCS it is important to break the figure down into its components.

Example: E3V3M5 = GCS 11.

A Coma Score of 13 or higher correlates with a mild brain injury, 9 to 12 is a moderate injury, and 8 or less a severe brain injury.

Reference: Teasdale G., Jennett B., LANCET (ii) 81-83, 1974.