HOW TO SCORE

Crying Behavior: Score 2 points if infant exhibits crying or cry behavior for duration of less than 50 percent of the scoring interval. Score 3 points if cumulative crying behavior totals 50 percent or more of the scoring interval. NOTE: Cry behavior is accompanied by the facial expressions associated with crying, but without audible sound secondary to endotracheal intubations.

Sleeping: Score 3 points if infant sleeps for less than 25 percent of the scoring interval. Score 2 points if infant sleeps for 26-75 percent of scoring interval. Score 1 point if infant sleeps for 75 percent or more of scoring interval.

Moro Reflex: Score 2 points if infant has some arm and / or leg extension when touched or when disturbed by noises. Score 3 points if infant has marked arm and / or leg extension that is accompanied by crying behavior, hyperalert state, or continued arm and / or leg tremors after being startled.

Tremors-disturbed: Score 1 point if infant has mild tremors when disturbed. Score 2 points if infant has moderate-severe tremors when disturbed. NOTE: Tremors are alternating movements that are rhythmic, of equal rate and amplitude, and can be usually stopped by flexion of the limb.

Tremors-undisturbed: Score 1 point if infant exhibit mild tremors not related to any environmental stimuli. Score 2 points if infant exhibits moderate-severe tremors not related to any environmental stimuli.

Increased Muscle Tone: Score 2 points if infant exhibits fisting or tight flexion of extremities that are difficult to extend.

Skin Excoriation: Score 1 point if area of skin is red or broken down as a direct result of friction against the bed surface.

Temperature: Score 1 point if temperature is 37.2° - 38.4°. Score 2 points if temperature is >38.4°.

Respiratory Rate: Score 1 point if infant’s spontaneous respiratory rate is greater than 60/minutes. Score 2 points if infant’s spontaneous respiratory rate is greater than 60/minute and accompanied by retractions. Score 0 if the infant is intubated.

Suction: Score 2 points if infant is intubated and requires suctioning more than twice during scoring interval.

Sweating: Score 1 point if infant exhibits any type of sweating, including beads of sweat, of if skin is moist to touch.

Yawning: Score 1 point if infant yawns more than three to four times in succession or yawns one or two times during a four-hour period.

Sneezing: Score 1 point if infant sneezes more than three to four times in succession or sneezes one or two times during a four-hour period.

Emesis: Score 2 points if infant has one or more emesis during a four-hour period.

Projectile Vomiting: Score 3 points if infant has one or more episodes of projectile vomiting during a four-hour period.

Loose Stools: Score 2 points if infant has loose stools characterized by a water ring around some solid stool. The stools may be frequent. NOTE: Do not score for “breast milk” stools; frequent, small, seedy yellow stools.

Watery Stools: Score 3 points for stools that consist of only liquid. The stools may be frequent.

Total Score: Add up all the scores in the column and place the total score in this box.

Adjusted Score: The adjusted score is used when a symptom is identified that is expected to occur independent of withdrawal symptoms, due to a pre-existing condition such as RR>60 in infant with RDS or BPD. The decision to adjust the score should be made after discussion with physician and the rationale documented. Circle the symptom to be excluded and deduct the points from the total score to obtain the adjusted score.