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National Collaborating Centre for Acute Care (UK). Head Injury: Triage, Assessment, Investigation and Early Management of Head Injury in Infants, Children and Adults. London: National Collaborating Centre for Acute Care (UK); 2007 Sep. (NICE Clinical Guidelines, No. 56.)

Appendix N Paediatric version of the Glasgow Coma Scale

The Paediatric version of the Glasgow Coma Scale is scored between 3 and 15, 3 being the worst, and 15 the best. It is composed of three parameters: Best Eye Response, Best Verbal Response, Best Motor Response. The definition of these parameters is given below.

Best Eye 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 vocal response.
2. Occasionally whimpers and/or moans.
3. Cries inappropriately.
4. Less than usual ability and/or spontaneous irritable cry.
5. Alert, babbles, coos, words or sentences to usual ability.

Communication with the infant or child's caregivers is required to establish the best usual verbal response. A 'grimace' alternative to verbal responses should be used in pre-verbal or intubated patients.

Best Grimace Response (5)

1. No response to pain.
2. Mild grimace to pain.
3. Vigorous grimace to pain.
4. Less than usual spontaneous ability or only response to touch stimuli.
5. Spontaneous normal facial/oro-motor activity.

Best Motor Response. (6)

1. No motor response to pain.
2. Abnormal extension to pain (decerebrate).
3. Abnormal flexion to pain (decorticate).
4. Withdrawal to painful stimuli.

5. Localises to painful stimuli or withdraws to touch.
6. Obeys commands or performs normal spontaneous movements.

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