

Appendix 2 National Institute of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS)

National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS)			Base
1a Level of consciousness (LOC)	0 1 2 3	Alert - keenly responsive Drowsy – rousable by minor stimulation to obey Stuporous- requires repeated stimulation to attend, or is obtunded and requires strong or painful stimulation to make movements (not stereotyped) Comatose – responds only with reflex motor or autonomic effects or totally unresponsive, flaccid	
1b LOC Questions	0 1 2	Answers both correctly Answers one correctly Both incorrect <i>Patient is asked to state the month & his/her age</i>	
1c LOC Commands	0 1 2	Obeys both correctly Obeys one correctly Both Incorrect <i>Patient is asked to open & close eyes, grip & release normal hand</i>	
2 Best Gaze	0 1 2	Normal Partial gaze palsy – gaze is abnormal in one or both eyes, no forced deviation/total gaze paresis Forced deviation – or total gaze paresis not overcome by oculoccephalic manoeuvre	
3 Visual Fields	0 1 2 3	No visual loss (or in a coma) Partial hemianopia Complete hemianopia Bilateral hemianopia including cortical blindness	
4 Facial Palsy	0 1 2 3	Normal Minor flattened nasolabial fold, asymmetry on smiling Partial total or near total paralysis of lower face Complete absent facial movement in upper and lower face and lower face on one or both sides	
5 Best Motor RIGHT ARM	0 1 2 3 4	No drift holds limb at 90 degrees for full 10 seconds Drift drifts down but does not hit bed Some effort against gravity No effort against gravity No movement	
6 Best Motor LEFT ARM	0 1 2 3 4	No drift holds limb at 90 degrees for full 10 seconds Drift drifts down but does not hit bed Some effort against gravity No effort against gravity No movement	
7 Best Motor RIGHT LEG	0 1 2 3 4	No drift holds limb at 45 degrees for full 5 seconds Drift drifts down but does not hit bed Some effort against gravity No effort against gravity No movement	
8 Best Motor LEFT LET	0 1 2 3 4	No drift holds limb at 45 degrees for full 5 seconds Drift drifts down but does not hit bed Some effort against gravity No effort against gravity No movement	
9 Limb Ataxia	0 1 2	Absent (or in a coma) Present in 1 limb Present in 2 or more limbs <i>Ataxia is not usually present when weakness is present</i>	
10 Sensory	0 1 2	Normal Partial loss patient feels pinprick is less sharp or is dull on affected side Dense loss (or in a coma) patient is unaware of being touched on face, arm or leg	
11 Best Language	0 1 2 3	No dysphasia Mild moderate dysphasia obvious loss of fluency or comprehension, without significant limitation on ideas expressed or form of expression. Makes conversation about provided material difficult or impossible e.g. examiner can identify picture or naming card from patients response Severe dysphasia all communication is through fragmentary expression: great need for inference, questioning and or guessing by the listener who carries burden of communication. Examiner cannot identify materials provided from patient response Mute no useable speech or auditory comprehension, or in a coma	
12 Dysarthria	0 1 2	Normal articulation Mild moderate dysarthria patient slurs some words can be understood with some difficulty Unintelligible or worse speech is so slurred as to be unintelligible (absence of or out of proportion to dysphasia) or is mute/anarthric, or in a coma	
13 Neglect	0 1 2	No neglect (or in a coma) Partial neglect – visual tactile, auditory, spatial or personal inattention or extinction to bilateral simultaneous stimulation in one of the sensory modalities Complete neglect-profound hemi-inattention or hemi-inattention to more than one modality. Does not recognise own hand or orients to only one side of space	
TOTAL SCORE			