

CIWA-Ar

Item	Options	Points
Nausea and vomiting	None: no nausea and no vomiting	0
	Mild: mild nausea with no vomiting	1
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	2
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	3
	Intermittent: intermittent nausea with dry heaves	4
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	5
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	6
	Constant: constant nausea, frequent dry heaves and vomiting	7
Tactile disturbances	None	0
	Very mild: Very mild itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness	1
	Mild: Mild itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness	2
	Moderate: Moderate itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness	3
	Moderately severe hallucinations	4
	Severe hallucinations	5
	Extremely severe hallucinations	6
	Continuous hallucinations	7
Tremor	None: no tremor	0
	Felt only: not visible, but can be felt fingertip to fingertip	1
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	2
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	3
	Moderate: moderate, with the patient's arms extended	4
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	5
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	6
	Severe: severe, even with arms not extended	7
Auditory disturbances	Not present	0
	Very mild: Very mild harshness or ability to frighten	1
	Mild: Mild harshness or ability to frighten	2
	Moderate: Moderate harshness or ability to frighten	3
	Moderately severe hallucinations	4
	Severe hallucinations	5
	Extremely severe hallucinations	6
	Continuous hallucinations	7
Paroxysmal sweats	None: no sweat visible	0
	Barely perceptible: barely perceptible sweating, palms moist	1
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	2
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	3

Item	Options	Points
	Beads of sweat: beads of sweat obvious on forehead	4
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	5
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	6
	Drenching: drenching sweats	7
Visual disturbances	Not present	0
	Very mild: Very mild sensitivity	1
	Mild: Mild sensitivity	2
	Moderate: Moderate sensitivity	3
	Moderately severe hallucinations	4
	Severe hallucinations	5
	Extremely severe hallucinations	6
	Continuous hallucinations	7
Anxiety	None: no anxiety, at ease	0
	Mild: mildly anxious	1
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	2
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	3
	Moderate: moderately anxious, or guarded, so anxiety is inferred	4
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	5
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	6
	Panic: equivalent to acute panic states as seen in severe delirium or acute schizophrenic reactions	7
Headache, fullness in head	Not present	0
	Very mild	1
	Mild	2
	Moderate	3
	Moderately severe	4
	Severe	5
	Very severe	6
	Extremely severe	7
Agitation	Normal: normal activity	0
	Slight: somewhat more than normal activity	1
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	2
	Between 1 and 4: no published anchor, use rater judgment	3
	Moderate: moderately fidgety and restless	4
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	5
	Between 4 and 7: no published anchor, use rater judgment	6
	Severe: paces back and forth during most of the interview, or constantly thrashes about	7

Item	Options	Points
Orientation and clouding of sensorium	Oriented: Oriented and can do serial additions	0
	Uncertain: Cannot do serial additions or is uncertain about date	1
	Date off by 2 days or less: Disoriented for date by no more than 2 calendar days	2
	Date off by more than 2 days: Disoriented for date by more than 2 calendar days	3
	Place or person: Disoriented for place or person	4

Interpretation

0–9	Mild withdrawal. Mild or minimal withdrawal. Keep reassessing on schedule, because symptoms can climb over the first 24 to 72 hours after the last drink.
10–18	Moderate withdrawal. Moderate withdrawal. Notify the provider, follow your facility's symptom-triggered protocol and increase the frequency of monitoring.
19–67	Severe withdrawal. Severe withdrawal with higher risk of seizures and delirium. Escalate care promptly, monitor closely and follow facility protocol.

Total score: _____ Date: _____ Assessed by: _____

Sullivan, Sykora, Schneiderman, Naranjo & Sellers, 1989. Sources: Sullivan et al. 1989, Assessment of alcohol withdrawal: the revised CIWA-Ar (PubMed); CIWA-Ar form (public domain); ASAM Clinical Practice Guideline on Alcohol Withdrawal Management, 2020; StatPearls: Alcohol Withdrawal. Free calculator and full guide: nursingscales.com/ciwa-ar/ · Educational material; does not replace clinical judgment or facility protocols.