

Alcohol Withdrawal GMAWS and Chlordiazepoxide Prescribing Chart

Assess the severity of withdrawal using the **Glasgow Modified Alcohol Withdrawal Scale (GMAWS)** below:

- enter score for each criterion in relevant box
- add scores together to get total GMAWS score

Patient Name: _____

DOB: _____

Hospital No: _____

NHS No: _____

ATTACH
PATIENT LABEL
HERE

DO NOT use GMAWS if the patient is still intoxicated → must be ≥8h since last alcoholic drink

Date (DD/MM)	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/
Time (HH:MM)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Tremor No tremor 0 On movement 1 At rest 2								
Sweating No sweat visible 0 Moist 1 Drenching Sweats 2								
Hallucinations Not present 0 Dissuadable 1 Not dissuadable 2								
Orientation Orientated 0 Vague, detached 1 Disorientated, no contact 2								
Agitation Calm 0 Anxious 1 Panicky 2								
Total Score / 10								
Staff Initials:								

IMPORTANT – PLEASE READ BEFORE TURNING OVER

- the dosing regimens overleaf are a *guide* only and need to be considered on an individual patient basis
- patients who are frail / elderly or who have renal / hepatic impairment, head injury or other risk factors for excess sedation / respiratory depression should receive lower dosing regimens of chlordiazepoxide than suggested by the initial GMAWS score
- patients with acute / severe hepatic impairment should be treated with lorazepam instead of chlordiazepoxide
- approximate equivalent benzodiazepine doses are **chlordiazepoxide 30mg = diazepam 10mg = lorazepam 1mg**
- if oral benzodiazepine administration is not possible (e.g. persistent vomiting) → give IV diazepam or lorazepam at 50% of the equivalent oral dose i.e. PO chlordiazepoxide 30mg = IV diazepam 5mg = IV lorazepam 0.5mg
- refer to Section 3 of the Alcohol Withdrawal SOP for advice regarding management of patients with severe withdrawal / DTs

→ turn over for guidance on prescribing chlordiazepoxide regimen based on initial GMAWS score

- 1. Use the initial GMAWS score from page 1** to determine the starting regimen of chlordiazepoxide as indicated below; if the initial GMAWS is 0 then no chlordiazepoxide is necessary at this time; reassess patient and recheck GMAWS in 4h
- 2. Circle the regimen to be commenced below**, strike-through the other regimens and sign / enter your details at the bottom
- 3. Prescribe regular chlordiazepoxide** on the *Regular Drug Therapy* section of the drug chart and circle the times for administration → DO NOT prescribe doses but write 'see chlordiazepoxide chart'
- 4. Prescribe PRN chlordiazepoxide** on the *As Required* section of the drug chart every 2h at the starting dose of the chosen regimen e.g. if initial GMAWS is 1-3, prescribe PRN chlordiazepoxide 30mg every 2h –PRN doses should be reviewed at least every 24h and reduced in accordance with the regular doses being administered each day if symptoms are well controlled
- 5. Repeat GMAWS score regularly** minimum every 4-6h during the first 48h and document the score in table on page 1 → administer a PRN dose of chlordiazepoxide each time GMAWS score >4
- 6. Frequent reassessment is critical** adjust dosing regimens according to symptom control, degree of sedation / respiratory depression and requirement for PRN dosing; consider increasing regular dose if >3 PRN doses are required in 24h; generally, PRN doses should NOT be required after day 3 – consider increasing regular dose and /or extending duration of regimen (e.g. to 7 days) if patient is still requiring PRN dosing (GMAWS score >4) at this point

IMPORTANT: if the regimen is starting in the evening / at night, write up the first 1-2 doses of chlordiazepoxide on the *Once Only 'STAT' Drugs* section of the drug chart and **commence regimen the following morning** to prevent overly rapid reduction in dosing

Initial GMAWS 1-3 Chlordiazepoxide 30mg

Day	Date:	08:00 Dose	Given By:	12:00 Dose	Given By:	18:00 Dose	Given By:	22:00 Dose	Given By:
1	/	30mg		30mg		30mg		30mg	
2	/	20mg		20mg		20mg		20mg	
3	/	15mg		15mg		15mg		15mg	
4	/	10mg		10mg		10mg		10mg	
5	/	5mg		5mg		5mg		5mg	

Initial GMAWS 4-6 Chlordiazepoxide 40mg

Day	Date:	08:00 Dose	Given By:	12:00 Dose	Given By:	18:00 Dose	Given By:	22:00 Dose	Given By:
1	/	40mg		40mg		40mg		40mg	
2	/	30mg		30mg		30mg		30mg	
3	/	20mg		20mg		20mg		20mg	
4	/	10mg		10mg		10mg		10mg	
5	/	5mg		5mg		5mg		5mg	

Initial GMAWS ≥7 Chlordiazepoxide 50mg and **OBTAIN URGENT SENIOR REVIEW**

Day	Date:	08:00 Dose	Given By:	12:00 Dose	Given By:	18:00 Dose	Given By:	22:00 Dose	Given By:
1	/	50mg		50mg		50mg		50mg	
2	/	40mg		40mg		40mg		40mg	
3	/	30mg		30mg		30mg		30mg	
4	/	20mg		20mg		20mg		20mg	
5	/	10mg		10mg		10mg		10mg	

PRESCRIBING CLINICIAN:

SIGNATURE	PRINT NAME	OR STAMP HERE
F1 / F2 / ST1 / ST2 / GPVTS / SpR / Locum / ACP	REG NO.	