DOB

GENDER

POSTCODE

SURNAME

GIVEN NAMES

1 HOSPITAL GROUP

Daily Medical Review (signed)
Referral to Alcohol and Drug

Service

DO NOT WRITE IN MARGIN

ALCOHOL WITHDRAWAL

CHART (CIWA-Ar) FOR

Oral Dosing Guide (reduce dose for age and/or comorbidities*)

To:

THIS IS NOT A PRESCRIPTION - REFER TO THE WA HOSPITAL MEDICATION CHART

Symptoms	CIWA-Ar Score	Oral Dose		CIWA-Ar Frequency
		Diazepam	Lorazepam	CIWA-AI Frequency
Mild	0-8	NIL	NIL	Record CIWA-Ar score and repeat in FOUR hours
Moderate	9-14	5 – 15 mg	1 – 3 mg	Record CIWA-Ar score and repeat in TWO hours
Severe	15 or more	20 mg	4 mg	Record CIWA-Ar and repeat in ONE hour. If no reduction in score discuss with Medical Officer
Usual maximum per 24 hours		100 mg	20 mg	Seek medical review if maximum dose reached

- · Physiological observations must be recorded on the Adult Observation and Response Chart at each assessment
- Clinical features of alcohol withdrawal may overlap with signs of other illnesses. Consider other medical and
 psychiatric conditions when assessing patients. Policies guiding activation of medical emergency teams for the
 deteriorating patient still apply.
- This chart MUST be reviewed and signed daily by treating medical team
- Medications MUST be prescribed on the WA Hospital Medication Chart

Referred by:_

 This Chart is ceased when at least 48 hours have elapsed since alcohol cessation AND the total score is 8 or less on FOUR CONSECUTIVE occasions

Alcohol Withdrawal Chart (CIWA-Ar) v1.1

ALCOHOL WITHDRAWAL CHART (CIWA-Ar)				
NAUSEA AND VOMITING – Ask "Do you feel sick to your stomach? Have you vomited?" Observation.	TACTILE DISTURBANCES – ask "Have you any itching, pins and needles sensations, any burning, any numbness, or do you feel bugs crawling on or under your skin?" Observation.			
0 no nausea and no vomiting 1 mild nausea with no vomiting 2 3 4 intermittent nausea with dry heaves 5 6 7 constant nausea, frequent dry heaves and vomiting	0 none 1 very mild itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness 2 mild itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness 3 moderate itching, pins and needles, burning or numbness 4 moderately severe hallucinations 5 severe hallucinations 6 extremely severe hallucinations 7 continuous hallucinations			
TREMOR – Arms extended and fingers spread apart. Observation. 0 no tremor 1 not visible, but can be felt fingertip to fingertip 2 3 4 moderate, with patient's arms extended 5 6 7 severe, even with arms not extended	AUDITORY DISTURBANCES – Ask "Are you more aware of sounds around you? Are they harsh? Do they frighten you? Are you hearing anything that is disturbing to you? Are you hearing things that you know are not there?" Observation. 0 not present 1 very mild harshness or ability to frighten 2 mild harshness or ability to frighten 3 moderate harshness or ability to frighten 4 moderately severe hallucinations 5 severe hallucinations 6 extremely severe hallucinations 7 continuous hallucinations			
PAROXYSMAL SWEATS – Observation. 0 no sweat visible 1 barely perceptible sweating, palms moist 2 3 4 beads of sweat obvious on forehead 5 6 7 drenching sweats	VISUAL DISTURBANCES – Ask "Does the light appear to be too bright? Is its colour different? Does it hurt your eyes? Are you seeing anything that is disturbing to you? Are you seeing things you know are not there? Observation. 0 not present 1 very mild sensitivity 2 mild sensitivity 3 moderate sensitivity 4 moderately severe hallucinations 5 severe hallucinations 6 extremely severe hallucinations 7 continuous hallucinations			
ANXIETY – Ask "Do you feel nervous?" Observation. 0 no anxiety, at ease 1 mildly anxious 2 3 4 moderately anxious, or guarded, so anxiety is inferred 5 6 7 equivalent to acute panic states as seen in severe delirium or acute schizophrenic reactions	HEADACHE, FULLNESS IN HEAD – Ask "Does your head feel different? Does it feel like there is a band around your head?" Do not rate for dizziness or light headedness. Otherwise, rate severity. 0 not present 1 very mild 2 mild 3 moderate 4 moderately severe 5 severe 6 very severe 7 extremely severe			
AGITATION – Observation. 0 normal activity 1 somewhat more than normal activity 2 3 4 moderately fidgety and restless 5 6 7 paces back and forth during most of the interview, or constantly thrashes about	ORIENTATION AND CLOUDING OF SENSORIUM Ask "What day is this? Where are you? Who am I?" orientated and can perform serial additions cannot do serial additions or is uncertain about date disorientated for date by no more than 2 calendar days disorientated for date by more than 2 calendar days disorientated for place / or person			

THIAMINE*: patients with alcohol withdrawal and clear mental state should receive thiamine IV 300 mg daily for 3 days, then PO 100 mg TDS. Consider IV 500mg TDS for patients with features of Wernicke's encephalopathy. IM thiamine is a suitable alternative for patients without IV access.

*Chart to be used in association with WA Health AOD Withdrawal Management Practice and Pathways and/or site-specific Alcohol and other Drug management guidelines.

Treatment recommendations do not cover all clinical scenarios and do not replace the need for clinical judgement.

References:
Sullivan et al (1989) The revised Clinical Institute Withdrawal for Alcohol scale- revised (CIWA-Ar) British Journal of Addiction. 84: 1353-1357 Haber P, Lintzeris N, Proude E, Lopatko O. Guidelines for the treatment of Alcohol Problems. (2009). Australian Government. Department of Health and Aging.

Western Australian Drug and Alcohol Authority, (2015), A Brief Guide to the Assessment and Treatment of Alcohol Dependence; 17-18.

Alcohol Withdrawal Chart (CIWA-Ar) V1.1 Endorsed by WATAG July 2021