

## Assessing Mental Status of Children

The Pediatric Glasgow Coma Score (PGCS) is used to assess the mental state of young children and infants. The PGCS comprises three tests: eye, verbal and motor responses. The lowest possible PGCS is 3 (deep coma or death) while the highest is 15 (fully awake and aware person).

Test	Infants	Children	Score
<b>Eyes</b>	Open spontaneously	Open spontaneously	4
	Open in response to verbal stimuli	Open in response to verbal stimuli	3
	Open in response to pain only	Open in response to pain only	2
	No response	No response	1
<b>Verbal</b>	Coos and babbles	Oriented, appropriate	5
	Irritable cries	Confused	4
	Cries in response to pain	Inappropriate words	3
	Moans in response to pain	Incomprehensible words or nonspecific sounds	2
	No response	No response	1
<b>Motor</b>	Moves spontaneously/purposefully	Obeys commands	6
	Withdraws to touch	Localizes painful stimulus	5
	Withdraws in response to pain	Withdraws in response to pain	4
	Responds to pain with decorticate posturing (abnormal flexion)	Responds to pain with decorticate posturing (abnormal flexion)	3
	Responds to pain with decerebrate posturing (abnormal flexion)	Responds to pain with decerebrate posturing (abnormal flexion)	2
	No response	No response	1

Reference: Rogers, Mark C.: Textbook of Pediatric Intensive Care. Baltimore, Williams & Wilkins, 1987.



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases