# Neontal Abstinence Syndrome Assessment & Treatment

Guidelines for the use of the neonatal abstinence scoring system

1. Record time of scoring (end of observation interval).
2. Give points for all behaviors or symptoms observed during the scoring interval, even though they may not be present at the time of recording. (For example, if the baby was diaphoretic at 11 AM and is scored at noon, when he or she is not, the baby still gets the sweating point.)
3. Awaken the baby to test reflexes. Calm before assessing muscle tone, respirations, or Moro reflex. Many of the signs of hunger can appear the same as withdrawal. Appearance after feeding gives a good idea of muscle activity.
4. Count respirations for a full minute. Always take temperature at the same site. The temperatures on the sheet are rectal levels; an axillary temperature that is 2 degrees cooler may also indicate withdrawal.
5. Do not give points for perspiration if it occurs due to swaddling.
6. A startle reflex should not be substituted for the Moro reflex.
7. Record doses administered (dose/time/initials) on sheet. One hour leeway is acceptable in dosing a fairly stable baby.
8. Record daily weight on graphic sheet.
9. Do not hesitate to get your experienced colleagues’ opinion.

## System Signs & Symptoms

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<th>Time</th>
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### Central Nervous System Disturbances

- Generalized Convulsions: 5
- Sweating: 1
- Fever < 101°F (99.8°C - 100.8°F / 37.2°C - 38.2°C): 2
- Fever > 101°F (38.4°C and Higher): 1
- Frequent Yawning (> 3 - 4 times/interval): 1
- Mottling: 1
- Nasal Flaring: 2
- Respiratory Rate > 60/Min.: 1
- Respiratory Rate > 50/Min. with Retractions: 2
- Excessive Sucking: 1
- Poor Feeding: 2
- Regurgitation: 2
- Projectile Vomiting: 3
- Loose Stools: 2
- Watery Stools: 3

### Total Score: 3

### Initials of Scorer

**Notes:**

- Indicate coded dosing status, exact dose, & time of administration in the following blocks.
- Dosing Code:
  - Initiation (+)
  - Maintenance (m)
  - Increase (↑)
  - Decrease (↓)
  - Discontinuation (−)

**Drug Administered:**

- Serologic quantitation of pharmacologic agents:
  - AM
  - PM

**Pharmacotherapy Regimen:**

1. Titration Regimens

- Before Birth: Methadone

- After Birth: Benzodiazepines (Specify)

- Barbiturates (Specify)

- Others (Specify)

**Signature:**