

Glasgow Coma Score (GCS)

The GCS is scored between 3 and 15, 3 being the worst, and 15 the best. It is composed of three parameters: Best Eye Response, Best Verbal Response, Best Motor Response, as given below:

Best Eye Response (4)

1. No eye opening.
2. Eye opening to pain.
3. Eye opening to verbal command.
4. Eyes open spontaneously.

Best Verbal Response (5)

1. No verbal response
2. Incomprehensible sounds.
3. Inappropriate words.
4. Confused
5. Orientated

Best Motor Response (6)

1. No motor response.
2. Extension to pain.
3. Flexion to pain.
4. Withdrawal from pain.
5. Localizing pain.
6. Obeys Commands.

Note that the phrase 'GCS of 11' is essentially meaningless, and it is important to break the figure down into its components, such as E3, V3, M5 = GCS 11.

GCS & Head Injury:

- GCS of 13 or higher correlates with a mild brain injury
- GCS of 9 to 12 is a moderate injury
- GCS of 8 or less is a severe brain injury.

NOTE: The lowest GCS a patient can have is a “3.” **Do not** document a GCS of zero.
