

# PITTSBURGH AGITATION SCALE

Patient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Rater's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM to \_\_\_\_\_ AM/PM

Hours of sleep this rating period: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle only the highest intensity score for each behavior group that you observed during this rating period. Use the anchor points as a guide to choose a suitable level of severity. (Not all anchor points need be present. Choose the more severe level when in doubt.)

<i><b>Behavior groups</b></i>	<i><b>Intensity during rating period</b></i>
<p><b>Aberrant Vocalization</b> (repetitive requests or complaints, nonverbal vocalizations, e.g., moaning, screaming)</p>	<p>0. Not present 1. Low volume, not disruptive in milieu, including crying 2. Louder than conversational, mildly disruptive, redirectable 3. Loud, disruptive, difficult to redirect 4. Extremely loud screaming or yelling, highly disruptive, unable to redirect</p>
<p><b>Motor Agitation</b> (pacing, wandering, moving in chair, picking at objects, disrobing, banging on chair, taking others' possessions. Rate "intrusiveness" by normal social standards, not by effect on other patients in milieu. If "intrusive" or "disruptive" due to noise, rate under "Vocalization.")</p>	<p>0. Not present 1. Pacing or moving about in chair at normal rate (appears to be seeking comfort, looking for spouse, purposeless movements) 2. Increased rate of movements, mildly intrusive, easily redirectable 3. Rapid movements, moderately intrusive or disruptive, difficult to redirect 4. Intense movements extremely intrusive or disruptive, not redirectable verbally</p>
<p><b>Aggressiveness</b> (score '0' if aggressive only when resisting care)</p>	<p>0. Not present 1. Verbal threats 2. Threatening gestures; no attempt to strike 3. Physical toward property 4. Physical toward self or others</p>
<p><b>Resisting Care</b> (circle associated activity) Washing / Dressing / Eating / Meds Other: _____</p>	<p>0. Not present 1. Procrastination or avoidance 2. Verbal gesture of refusal 3. Pushing away to avoid task 4. Striking out at caregiver</p>

Were any of the following used during this rating period because of behavior problems?

(Circle interventions used.)

- Seclusion
- PRN Meds (specify)
- Restraint
- Other interventions

Reference: Rosen, J., Burgio, L., Killar, M., Cain, M., Allison, M., et al. (1994). The Pittsburgh Agitation Scale. *American Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*, 2, 52–59.