

See. PAWSS on next page

Prediction of Alcohol Withdrawal Severity Score (PAWSS)

Part A: Threshold Criterion	“Y” or “N”, no point
Have you consumed any amount of alcohol (i.e., been drinking) <u>within the last 30 days</u> ? OR did the patient have a “+” BAL on admission? <i>IF the answer to either is YES, proceed with test:</i>	
Part B: Patient Interview	1 point each
1. Have you been recently <u>intoxicated/drun</u> k within the last 30 days?	
2. Have you <u>ever</u> undergone alcohol use disorder rehabilitation treatment or treatment for alcoholism? (i.e., in-patient or out-patient treatment programs or AA attendance)	
3. Have you <u>ever</u> experienced any previous episodes of alcohol withdrawal, regardless of severity?	
4. Have you <u>ever</u> experienced blackouts?	
5. Have you <u>ever</u> experienced alcohol withdrawal seizures?	
6. Have you <u>ever</u> experienced delirium tremens or DT’s?	
7. Have you combined alcohol with other “downers” like benzodiazepines or barbiturates, <u>during the last 90 days</u> ?	
8. Have you combined alcohol with any other substance of abuse, <u>during the last 90 days</u> ?	
Part C: Clinical Evidence	1 point each
9. Was the patient’s blood alcohol level (BAL) <u>on presentation</u> ≥ 200 ?	
10. Is there evidence of increased autonomic activity? (e.g., HR>120, tremor, sweating, agitation, nausea)	
Total Score:	

Notes: Maximum score = 10. This instrument is intended as a SCREENING TOOL. The greater the number of positive findings, the higher the risk for the development of AWS.

A score of ≥ 4 suggests HIGH RISK for moderate to severe (complicated) AWS; prophylaxis and/or treatment may be indicated.

Risk Stratification

- **Low Risk:** PAWSS Score ≤ 3 (and clinical judgement)
→ follow symptom triggered treatment
- **Moderate-High Risk:** PAWSS Score ≥ 4 and persistent CIWA score > 18
→ follow fixed dose taper

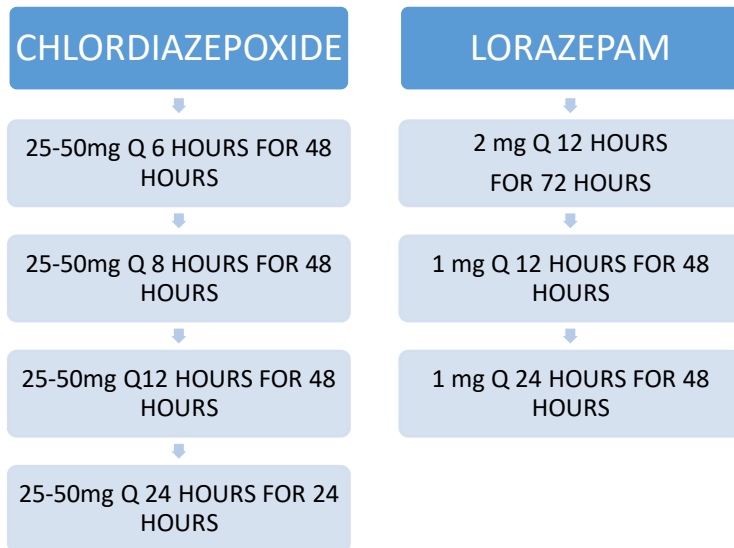
FIXED-DOSE TAPER (1 week)

1. Treat with Chlordiazepoxide (Librium) according to dosing below (available as PO only)

- Longer acting than lorazepam
- Smoother taper
- Contraindicated in elderly, moderate to severe liver dysfunction or if unable to take PO

2. Lorazepam (available as IV/IM/PO) **ONLY** if **chlordiazepoxide is contraindicated:**

- Oral administration of lorazepam is preferred over parenteral routes of administration. However, IV administration should be considered for patients not tolerating oral administration
- Lorazepam can be administered IM if IV access is not available.
- Monitor for signs of propylene glycol toxicity (i.e. anion gap metabolic acidosis, osmolar gap) with administration of lorazepam continuous infusion



SYMPTOM TRIGGERED MANAGEMENT (CIWA)

- I. Inclusion Criteria
 - Patient should be in Intensive or Intermediate Care Units
 - This protocol is only indicated in NON-mechanically ventilated patients
- II. Exclusion Criteria
 - Seizure on this admission from alcohol withdrawal
 - Cannot/unable to answer questions
 - Actively experiencing Delirium-Tremens (DTs)
 - No history of recent alcohol intake in the last 7 days
- III. PHARMACY: Inform physician that all pre-existing orders for benzodiazepines will be discontinued.
- IV. DOSING: Symptom-Triggered Dosing (PO or IV - IM if no IV access)

Withdrawal Score	Lorazepam Dose	Reassessment Time
0-7	None	2 hours
8-13	1 mg	1 hour
14-18	2 mg	1 hour
19-23	3 mg	1 hour
24 or more	4 mg	30 min for up to 2 hours

- Assessment frequency can be decreased after 24 hours if, on 3 consecutive assessments, CIWA < 8
- If after 72 hours CIWA remains < 8 and no symptoms of withdrawal then CIWA can be discontinued
- Fixed dose benzodiazepines or Lorazepam drip can be ordered for up to 8mg per hour for four hours if:
 - i. If patient required for doses of lorazepam every thirty minutes for a total of 32 mg over two hours and CIWA score is still greater than 18
 - ii. MD is at bedside and documents the need for lorazepam drip
 - iii. Patient is in ICU status or is in the ED under monitoring status
 - iv. Patient must be mechanically ventilated to initiate lorazepam drip

RASS Score	Lorazepam Infusion Instructions	Assessment
>+2	Bolus 6 mg and initiate drip at 6 mg/h Bolus 4 mg for each RASS +4 Increase drip by 2mg/h if RASS >+3 after 2 hours	Q15 min until RASS Score 0-2
0-2	Continue at current rate (do not increase unless RASS >+2)	Reassess q1h
<0	Decrease drip by 2mg/hr q2 hours as long as RASS <0; when drip weaned off, start (or resume) fixed dose taper	Reassess q2h

- Haldol can be considered but should have:
 - i. ECG
 - ii. Recent electrolytes
- V. Hold benzodiazepines and contact physician for:
 - BP < 110 mm Hg (Systolic)
 - RR < 10 breaths per minute
 - SpO2 < 93
 - Patient unresponsive (RASS -4 to -5)
- VI. Contact physician if:
 - HR > 110 per minute or SBP > 160 mm Hg or DBP of > 100 mm Hg after 10 minutes of administering lorazepam
- VII. Vitamins/Mineral Supplementation
 - Thiamine 200mg IV once, then 200mg PO/IV daily x 3 days
 - i. Consider higher doses (200 – 400mg every 8 hours x 2-3 days) if suspicion of Wernicke's is high (cognitive changes, paralysis of eye muscles, ataxia)
 - Folic Acid 1 mg PO or IV if no oral access daily for three days
 - Multivitamin 1 tab PO daily for three days
- VIII. Additional PRN Medications to Consider
 - For control of persistent signs of adrenergic hyperactivity such as tachycardia and hypertension
 - i. Metoprolol 5mg IV Q 6 hours PRN for SBP > 160 or DBP > 100 mm Hg (hold for SBP < 100 mm Hg, HR < 60 bpm)
 - ii. Clonidine 0.1 mg PO Q 8 hours PRN SBP > 160 or DBP > 100 mm Hg (hold for SBP < 100 mm Hg, HR < 60 bpm)
 - Adjunctive therapy (in addition to benzodiazepines) to improve control of agitation
 - i. Haloperidol 2.5 – 5mg IM every 4 – 6 hours scheduled or PRN
 - ii. Phenobarbital 130mg IV q8h prn agitation
 - iii. Monitor for signs of respiratory depression (RR < 10 breaths/min) and over-sedation (unresponsive)

- For adjunctive management of severe alcohol withdrawal (not be used as monotherapy and/or in conjunction with clonidine). May consider for patients requiring lorazepam continuous infusion of >10mg/hr to control signs of adrenergic hyperactivity or prevent mechanical ventilation
 - i. Dexmedetomidine - initiated at 0.2mcg/kg/hr and titrated to maintain RASS of 0 to -1 (unless otherwise ordered by provider). Titration range 0.2 – 1.5 mcg/kg/hour
 1. Hold for bradycardia (HR < 50 beats/min) and hypotension (BP < 90/60 mm Hg)
 2. Discontinue all existing orders for clonidine while utilizing dexmedetomidine