

National Institutes of Health Stroke Scale (NIHSS)			Score		
Instructions	Scale Definition	Date/Time	Baseline	24 Hrs Post TPA	Discharge
Date/Time					
1a. LOC	0 = Alert keenly responsive 1 = Not Alert but arousable by minor stimulation to obey, answer, respond 2 = Not Alert ; requires repeat stimulation, obtunded, requires strong stimuli 3 = Reflex motor or autonomic effects response, totally unresponsive, flaccid				
1b. LOC Questions. Ask the patient the month & age	0 = Answers both questions correctly 1 = Answers one question correctly 2 = Answers neither questions correctly				
1c. LOC Commands. Ask to open & close eyes, then grip & release with non-paretic hand.	0 = Performs both tasks correctly 1 = Performs one task correctly 2 = Performs neither task correctly				
2. Best Gaze. Asked to follow with eyes thru horizontal plane (or oculoccephalic maneuver).	0 = Normal 1 = Partial Gaze Palsy ; gaze is abnormal in 1 or both eyes, but forced deviation or total gaze paresis is not present. 2 = Forced deviation ; total gaze paresis not overcome by oculoccephalic man.				
3. Visual fields (quadrants) tested with finger counting or visual threat.(done by confrontation)	0 = No visual loss 1 = Partial hemianopia 2 = Complete hemianopia 3 = Bilateral hemianopia (including cortical blindness).				
4. Facial Palsy. Asked to show teeth & raise eyebrows	0 = Normal symmetrical movement 1 = Minor paralysis (flattened nasolabial fold, asymmetry on smiling) 2 = Partial paralysis (total or near total paralysis of lower face) 3 = Complete paralysis of one or both sides (no upper/lower face mvmt).				
5. Motor Arm. Asked to extend arms (palm down) 90° (if sitting) or 45° (if supine) & hold for 10 seconds. Begin with non-paretic limb.	0 = No drift ; limb holds 90°(or 45°) for full 10 seconds 1 = Drift , limb holds 90°(or 45°) but drifts down before full 10 seconds but does not hit bed or other support 2 = Some effort against gravity , limb cannot get to or maintain (if cued 90°or 45°) drifts down to bed, but has some effort against gravity. 3 = No effort against gravity , limb falls 4 = No movement *UN = Amputation, joint fusion: Explain _____		Left: Right:	Left: Right:	Left: Right:
6. Motor Leg. While supine, asked to hold leg at 30° for 5 seconds.	0 = No drift ; leg holds 30° for full 5 seconds 1 = Drift , leg falls but does not hit bed 2 = Some effort against gravity , falls to bed w/in 5 sec 3 = No effort against gravity ; leg falls to bed immediately 4 = No movement *UN = Amputation, joint fusion: Explain _____		Left: Right:	Left: Right:	Left: Right:
7.Limb Ataxia. Finger – nose & heel – shin test on both sides	0 = Absent 1 = Present in one limb 2 = Present in two limbs *UN = Amputation, joint fusion: Explain _____				
8. Sensory. Sensation or grimace to pin prick or withdrawal from noxious stimuli to limbs in obtunded or aphasic patient.	0 = Normal , no sensory loss 1 = Mild/moderate sensory loss; may be dulled/"Not as sharp" 2 = Severe/total sensory loss; not aware of face/arm/leg being touched.				
9.Best Language. Describe what is happening in picture, name items of figures, read list of sentences on attached figures.	0 = No aphasia , normal 1 = Mild / moderate aphasia ; some loss of fluency / comprehension, without limitation of expression of ideas. (can identify what is happening in picture) 2 = Severe aphasia ; (cannot identify pictures) 3 = Mute ; global aphasia; no usable speech; or auditory comprehension				
10.Dysarthria. Read or repeat words from list.	0 = Normal articulation 1 = Mild / Moderate ; slurs some words; understood w/some difficulty. 2 = Severe , so slurred as to be unintelligible; mute/anarthric *UN = Intubated or other physical barrier. Explain _____				
11.Extinction & Inattention. Look at visual (from #3) and double simultaneous tactile. Do both arms & legs.	0 = No abnormality 1 = Visual, tactile, auditory, spatial or personal inattention or extinction to bilateral stimulation in one sensory modalities. 2 = Profound hemi-inattention or inattention to more than one modality; does not recognize own hand; orients to only one side of space.				
*UN = untestable	TOTAL SCORE				
Initials					
Physician or Nurse Signature					

