



Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital
Opiate Withdrawal Chart

WARD:..... DATE:...../...../.....

Surname:

URN:

Forename:

Sex:

D.O.B.:

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

This guideline is for use in the management of the symptoms of opiate withdrawal. It is based on widely used scoring systems and links scores with suggested doses of medication.

The drugs of choice are **BUSCOPAN 10 to 20 mg BD, DIAZEPAM 5 to 20 mg, and CLONIDINE HYDROCHLORIDE** starting at 1 mcg/kg up to 4 hourly and increase doses as required. They must be charted on the medication chart. Diazepam may be withheld when the patient is sedated. However keep in mind that the patient's condition can change rapidly.

If a drug other than diazepam is used for withdrawal please write clear dosing instructions in the clinical notes.

Consider multi-Vitamins.

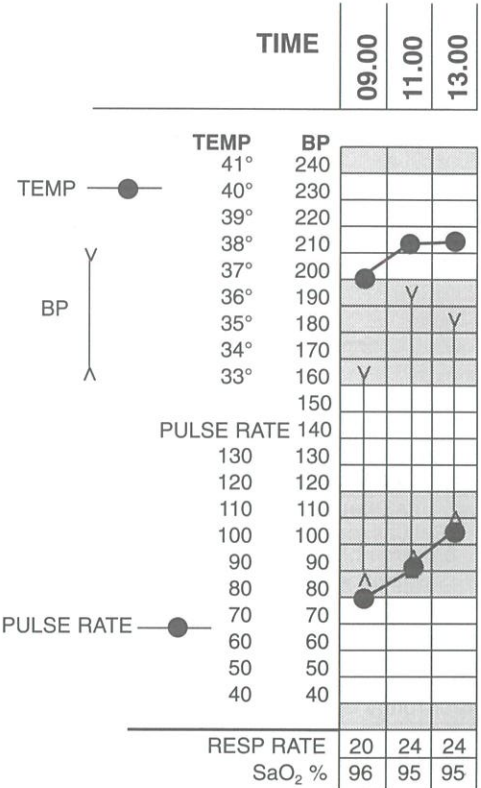
Note:

- This guideline does not replace individual clinical judgement.
- This guideline is in accordance with Medical Services Policy.
- Use of this guideline is ultimately at the discretion of the treating doctor.
- Prescribing is the responsibility of the treating doctor. They may not choose to use the dosing regime as set out in this document. However they may still find the scoring system helpful.
- Medications prescribed must be charted on the standard hospital medication chart.

WHEN TO STOP THIS CHART:

This chart can be stopped when the patient has no symptoms **after day 3**.

EXAMPLE CHART



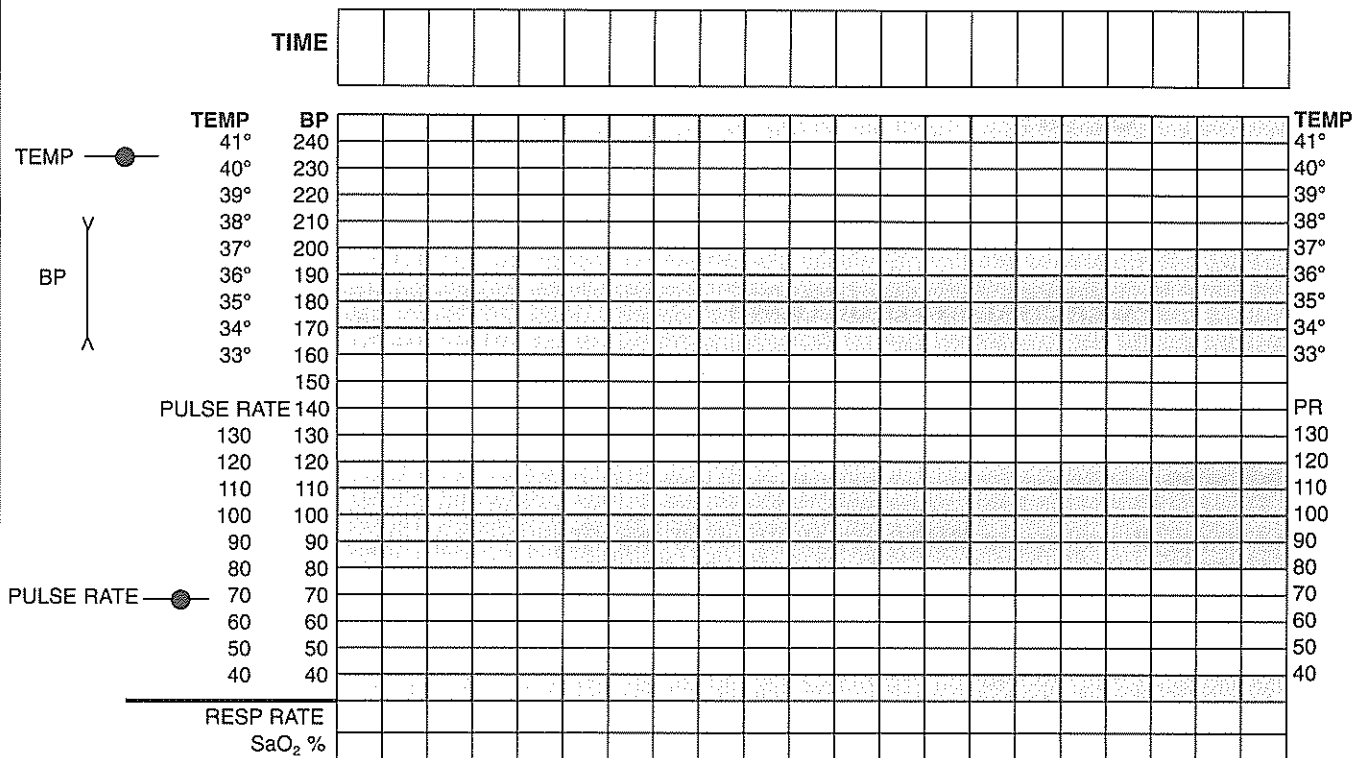
Nausea, vomiting &/or diarrhoea	0 - nil	✓		
	1 - present		✓	✓
Agitation, Restlessness &/or trembling	0 - nil	✓	✓	✓
	1 - present			
Muscle &/or abdominal cramps	0 - nil	✓	✓	✓
	1 - present			
Headache, runny nose &/or runny eyes	0 - nil	✓		
	1 - present		✓	✓
Heart Pounding	0 - nil	✓		
	1 - present		✓	✓
Sweating &/or pallor	0 - nil	✓	✓	✓
	1 - present			

		TOTAL	0	3	3
DIAZEPAM	Dose	-	10	10	
CLONIDINE	Dose	-	75	75	
BUSCOPAN	Dose	-	10	-	

Caution:

The signs of opiate withdrawal may mask the signs of other medical conditions Please keep this in mind when reviewing abnormal observations. Policies of activation of the Medical Emergency Team still apply.

OPIATE WITHDRAWAL CHART



Nausea, vomiting &/or diarrhoea	0 - nil																		
	1 - present																		
Agitation, Restlessness &/or trembling	0 - nil																		
	1 - present																		
Muscle &/or abdominal cramps	0 - nil																		
	1 - present																		
Headache, runny nose &/or runny eyes	0 - nil																		
	1 - present																		
Heart Pounding	0 - nil																		
	1 - present																		
Sweating &/or pallor	0 - nil																		
	1 - present																		

TOTAL

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* Symptoms of OPIATE withdrawal can peak at day 3

DIAZEPAM Dose

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CLONIDINE Dose

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BUSCOPAN Dose

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NB: YOU MUST RECORD ALL MEDICATION DETAILS ON BOTH THIS FORM AND ON THE MEDICATION CHART

ACTION	SCORE 0	Observations 4 hourly (No medication required)
	1	Observations 4 hourly - Consider diazepam 5 to 10 mg
	2, 3	Observations 4 hourly - Consider diazepam 10 mg
	4, 5	Observations 2 hourly - Consider commencing clonidine in addition to diazepam
	6	Observations 2 hourly - Consider increasing clonidine and diazepam

Consider using Buscopan 10 mg BD for abdominal cramps