NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH stroke scale

CATEGORY	STROKE SCALE	SCORE
1a. Level of consciousness Alert, Drowsy, etc	O 1 2 3 Alert Drowsy Stuporous Coma	
1b. LOC Questions Month, age	O 1 2 Answers both Answers one correctly Incorrect	
1c. LOC Commands Open/close eyes, make a fist & let go	Obeys both correctly Obeys one correctly Correctly	
2. Best Gaze Eyes open - pt follows examiner's fingers or face.	O 1 2 Normal Partial gaze palsy Forced deviation	
3. Visual Introduce visual stimulus/threat to pt's visual field quadrants. Cover 1 eye and hold up fingers in all 4 quadrants.	No visual loss Partial Complete Bilateral hemianopsia hemianopsia	
4. Facial Palsy Show teeth, raise eyebrows and squeeze eyes tightly shut.	O 1 2 3 Normal Minor Partial Complete	
5.a Motor Arm - Left Elevate extremity to 90 degrees and score drift/movement. Count to 10 out loud and use fingers for visual cue.	O No Drift Drift Can't resist gravity No effort against gravity No Movement NT = Amputation, joint fusion	
5.b Motor Arm - Right Elevate extremity to 90 degrees and score drift/movement. Count to 10 out loud and use fingers for visual cue.	No Drift Drift Can't resist No effort against gravity NT = Amputation, joint fusion	



6.a Motor Leg - Left

Elevate extremity to 30 degrees and score drift/movement. Count to 5 out loud and use fingers for visual cue.











Can't resist No effort against gravity aravity

NT = Amputation, joint fusion

6.b Motor Leg - Right

Elevate extremity to 30 degrees and score drift/movement. Count to 5 out loud and use fingers for visual cue.











against gravity

NT = Amputation, joint fusion

7. Limb Ataxia

Finger to nose, heal down shin



Absent





Present in

8. Sensory

Pin prick to face, arms, trunk, and legs compare sharpness side to side



Normal





Partial loss

Severe Loss

9. Best Language

Name items, describe picture, and read sentences. Don't forget glasses if they normally wear them.



No aphasia

Mild to moderate





Severe aphasia

10. Dysarthria

Evaluate speech clarity by pt reading or repeating words on list.



articulation





moderate dysarthria





NT = Intubated or other physical barrier

11. Extinction and Inattention

Use information from prior testing or double simultaneous stimuli testing to identify neglect. Face, arms, legs, and visual fields.







Partial nealect

NT = Not Testable acceptable as noted above

Score	Stroke Severity
0	No stroke symptoms
1-4	Minor stroke
5-15	Moderate stroke
16-20	Moderate to severe stroke
21-42	Severe stroke





