

## Objective Opioid Withdrawal Scale (OOWS)

Date ..... Time .....

**OBSERVE THE PATIENT DURING A  
5 MINUTE OBSERVATION PERIOD  
THEN INDICATE A SCORE FOR EACH OF THE OPIOID WITHDRAWAL SIGNS LISTED BELOW (ITEMS 1-13). ADD THE  
SCORES FOR EACH ITEM TO OBTAIN THE TOTAL SCORE**

	SIGN	MEASURES		SCORE
1	Yawning	0 = no yawns	1 = $\geq 1$ yawn	
2	Rhinorrhoea	0 = < 3 sniffs	1 = $\geq 3$ sniffs	
3	Piloerection (observe arm)	0 = absent	1 = present	
4	Perspiration	0 = absent	1 = present	
5	Lacrimation	0 = absent	1 = present	
6	Tremor (hands)	0 = absent	1 = present	
7	Mydriasis	0 = absent	1 = $\geq 3$ mm	
8	Hot and Cold flushes	0 = absent	1 = shivering / huddling for warmth	
9	Restlessness	0 = absent	1 = frequent shifts of position	
10	Vomiting	0 = absent	1 = present	
11	Muscle twitches	0 = absent	1 = present	
12	Abdominal cramps	0 = absent	1 = Holding stomach	
13	Anxiety	0 = absent	1 = mild - severe	
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>				

Range 0-13

Handelsman, L., Cochrane, K. J., Aronson, M. J. et al. (1987) Two New Rating Scales for Opiate Withdrawal, *American Journal of Alcohol Abuse*, 13, 293-308