

The Ramsay Sedation Scale (RSS) (modified)

<i>Value</i>	<i>Description (level of sedation)</i>	<i>Test to follow:</i>
1	Awake: Patient is anxious and agitated, or restless, or both.	Observe the patient.
2	Awake: Patient is co-operative, orientated, and tranquil.	Observe the patient. Does patient make eye contact and respond to commands?
3	Awake: Patient responds to commands only.	Talk to the patient. Does patient make eye contact and respond to commands?
4	Asleep: Patient reacts with a brisk response to a light glabellar tap or a loud auditory stimulus.	Physically stimulate the patient by shaking the shoulder while speaking loudly. Does patient respond within 10 sec?
5	Asleep: Patient reacts with a sluggish response to a light glabellar tap or a loud auditory stimulus.	Physically stimulate the patient by shaking the shoulder while speaking loudly. Does patient respond after 10 sec?
6	Asleep: Patient does not respond to pain.	Use painful stimuli. No response.

Modified after Ramsay M.A., Savege T.M., Simpson B.R., Goodwin R.: Controlled sedation with alphaxalone-alphadolone. *BMJ* 1974, 2:656- 659, and van Dishoeck A.M. *et al.* Reliable assessment of sedation level in routine clinical practice by adding an instruction to the Ramsay Scale. *Eur J Cardiovasc Nurs.* 2009 Jun;8(2):125-8.