

NIHSS

for the aphasic patient

Patients may present with an expressive (Broca's) aphasia or a receptive (Wernicke's) aphasia or both. For patients with an expressive aphasia, writing or responding with an action is acceptable. See the examples below:

1b. LOC Questions

- Patients can write their response to the two questions
- Patients can be given YES/NO options; "Are you 58 yrs old?" "Is this January?" (Give them three options to get the right answer)
- Score 2 – for patients who do NOT comprehend the questions

2. Best Gaze

- Establish eye contact and move around the bed
- If they fail, check oculo-cephalic reflex

3. Visual

- Testing visual quadrants "Point to the hand when my fingers move"
- Score 0 – If the patient points or looks at the correct (moving) fingers

4. Facial Palsy

- Ask and use pantomime ("do what I do") to encourage the patient

5. & 6. Motor

- Place the patient's arm or leg in the starting position and encourage them to hold it up while you audibly / visibly count for 10 secs (5 secs for legs)