Prediction of Alcohol Withdrawal Severity Scale (PAWSS)

Maldonado et al, 2015

Part A: Threshold Criteria: ("Y" or "N", no point)

Have you consumed any amount of alcohol (i.e., been drinking) <u>within the last 30 days</u>? OR did the patient have a "+" BAL on admission?

_____

IF the answer to either is YES, proceed with test:

Part B: Based on patient interview: (1 point each)

1. **Have you been recently <u>intoxicated/drunk</u>, within the last 30 days?**   _____

2. **Have you <u>ever</u> undergone alcohol use disorder rehabilitation treatment or treatment for alcoholism?**
   (i.e., in-patient or out-patient treatment programs or AA attendance)   _____

3. **Have you <u>ever</u> experienced any previous episodes of alcohol withdrawal, <u>regardless of severity</u>?**   _____

4. **Have you <u>ever</u> experienced blackouts?**   _____

5. **Have you <u>ever</u> experienced alcohol withdrawal seizures?**   _____

6. **Have you <u>ever</u> experienced delirium tremens or DT's?**   _____

7. **Have you combined alcohol with other "downers" like benzodiazepines or barbiturates, <u>during the last 90 days</u>?**   _____

8. **Have you combined alcohol with any other substance of abuse, <u>during the last 90 days</u>?**   _____

Part C: Based on clinical evidence: (1 point each)

9. **Was the patient's blood alcohol level (BAL) <u>on presentation</u> ≥ 200?**   _____

10. **Is there evidence of increased autonomic activity?**
    (e.g., HR > 120 bpm, tremor, sweating, agitation, nausea)   _____

Total Score: _____

Notes: Maximum score = 10. This instrument is intended as a SCREENING TOOL. The greater the number of positive findings, the higher the risk for the development of AWS.

A score of ≥ 4 suggests <u>HIGH RISK</u> for moderate to severe (<u>complicated</u>) AWS; prophylaxis and/or treatment may be indicated.