

## MODULE 5: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH STROKE SCALE (NIHSS)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Skilled and consistent use of a Standardized Nursing Assessment such as NIHSS may:
  - a. Positively impact patient outcomes
  - b. Lead to early intervention
  - c. Contribute to a better prognosis
  - d. Limit the extension of neurological damage
  - e. All of the above
2. Performing an NIHSS on a patient, once the nurse is familiar with it...
  - a. Should take 10 minutes or so to complete
  - b. Should take about an hour if the patient cooperates
  - c. Only needs to be done upon admission and again on discharge
  - d. Will show poor sensitivity to neurological change and Glasgow Coma Scale should be used instead

## Quiz

- You may use your binder as a reference to answer these questions
- Submit your completed quiz to the Nurse Clinician or designate for marking
- Your test will be returned to you to keep in your binder

3. Communicate NIHSS results when:
- a. You notice a neurological **decline**
  - b. A **new** deficit has arisen
  - c. An already present deficit has **gotten worse**
  - d. You have a concern as the nurse that your patient  
    *“is not quite right, compared to last night..”*
  - e. All of the above

## TRUE/FALSE Questions

(CIRCLE the correct letter)

- T**   **F**   1. The NIHSS is designed to assess LOC or coma and measures best response in arousal and orientation.
- T**   **F**   2. The lower the NIHSS overall total score, the more severe the stroke was.
- T**   **F**   3. It is important **not to help** the patient answer the LOC questions.
- T**   **F**   4. Only the upper quadrant is important when assessing the visual field.
- T**   **F**   5. Mild paralysis such as asymmetry with a smile would score a 1 on the Facial Palsy question.
- T**   **F**   6. Repeating words from the Standardized List on the NIHSS pocket card is the proper method to assess clarity of speech and detect presence of dysarthria.

**SCORE:** \_\_\_\_\_ / 9

Stroke Unit/Medical Unit Nurse Clinician/Designate

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Signature