

A-WPTAS State Form

Explanatory Notes

These explanatory notes for the Abbreviated Westmead Post Traumatic Amnesia Scale (A-WPTAS) state form are to be used in conjunction with the A-WPTAS Education Package provided.

Aim of A-WPTAS:

To measure the duration of post-traumatic amnesia (PTA) in patients following a mild traumatic brain injury with a Glasgow Comma Scale (GCS) 13-15.

Objectives of A-WPTAS:

- Identify patients with persistent PTA in the acute care setting, as this is a marker for an increased risk of intracranial haemorrhage and significant post-concussion symptoms.
- Reduce the length of stay
- Avoid unnecessary admissions
- Avoid inappropriate discharges
- To improve overall awareness and knowledge of PTA

Target patient group:

The A-WPTAS state form is designed to be used primarily in acute care environments such as the Emergency Department.

It may also be used in a sub-acute ward environment for the ongoing assessment of patients transferred from the Emergency Department or for the assessment of patients who have had an in-hospital fall.

The form is to be used within 24hrs of injury for patients with a suspected closed head injury and a GCS of 13-15.

Patients must be opening their eyes spontaneously and obeying commands to be suitable for an A-WPTAS assessment.

The form is validated for use in adults but may also be used in paediatrics ≥ 8 yrs old.

Target education group:

All clinicians who would be expected to conduct A-WPTAS assessments are required to be trained in its use.

Instructions for use of the form:

In-depth instruction on the conduct of an A-WPTAS assessment is provided on page 3 of the A-WPTAS form.

The A-WPTAS Education Package also provides extensive instruction and should be completed prior to using the form and is available at www.ecinsw.com.au/awptas