# COVID 19: Phenobarbital SEWS EtOH Withdrawal Protocol

(Age < or = 70, No Overt Liver Failure,

Denver Health
Alcohol Withdrawal Protocol
(Severity of Ethanol Withdrawal Scale)
Inpatient Units

Nursing Orders:	Provider ALERT:
[x] Place patient on continuous pulse ox if RASS -1 or	Consider alternative diagnoses for cause of patient's
lower	Autonomic Hyperactivity or Mental Status Changes.
[x] Elevate HOB if RASS -1 or lower	(e.g. sepsis, hepatic encephalopathy).
[x] Notify provider if RASS -2 or lower	
[x] Awaken patient to assess SEWS score	Phenobarbital only recommended when age < or = 70, No
[x] Do not administer Phenobarbital if patient sedated	Overt Hepatic Failure (Jaundice, Ascites, Spider Angioma),
(RASS equal to -1 or lower)	No End Stage Renal Failure, and No Pregnancy
[x] Reassess patient in 30 min if RASS -1 or lower	If SEWS Score 1 to 6 (MILD)
[x] If > or = 260 mg Phenobarbital in 1 hour, assess for	[x] Phenobarbital 130mg PO Q4hr PRN SEWS 1-6
sedation using RASS in 30 min	
[x] If total Phenobarbital > or = 780mg within 24 hours	[x] Hold Phenobarbital if RASS equal to -1 or lower
or 3 doses within 3 hours, face-to- face provider	[x] If > or = 260 mg Phenobarbital in 1 hour, assess for
evaluation required before continue the protocol	sedation using RASS in 30 min
[x] If signs/symptoms result in SEWS assessment earlier	[x] If total Phenobarbital > or = 780mg within 24 hours or
than scheduled, call provider to determine treatment	3 doses within 3 hours, face-to- face provider evaluation
strategy and time of next SEWS assessment.	required before continue the protocol
SEWS & RASS Assessment Frequency:	If SEWS Score 7 to 12 (MODERATE)
[x] SEWS = 0 Next SEWS in 4 hours	[x] Phenobarbital 130 mg IV Q 60 min PRN SEWS 7-12
[x] SEWS = 1-6 (MILD) Next SEWS in 4 hours	
[x] SEWS = 7-12 (MODERATE) Next SEWS in 1 hour	[x] Hold Phenobarbital if RASS equal to -1 or lower
[x] SEWS > or = 13 (SEVERE) Next SEWS in 30 min	[x] If > or = 260 mg Phenobarbital in 1 hour, assess for
[x] If SEWS = 0 for 48 hours, call provider to discontinue	sedation using RASS in 30 min
SEWS protocol.	[x] If total Phenobarbital > or = 780mg within 24 hours or
[x] Protocol expires after 10 days	3 doses within 3 hours, face-to-face provider evaluation
Vitamins:	required before continue the protocol
[] Thiamine 100 mg PO Daily x 3 Days	If SEWS Score > or = 13 (SEVERE)
[] Folic Acid 1 mg PO Daily x 3 Days	[x] Phenobarbital 130 mg IV Q 30 min PRN SEWS > or = 13
[] Multivitamin one tab Daily	
	[x] Hold Phenobarbital if RASS equal to -1 or lower
If unable to take PO:	[x] If > or = 260 mg Phenobarbital in 1 hour, assess for
[] Yellow bag IV Daily x 3 Days	sedation using RASS in 30 min
Thiamine 100 mg	[x] If total Phenobarbital > or = 780mg within 24 hours or
Multivitamin 10 mL	3 doses within 3 hours, face-to- face provider evaluation
Folic Acid 1 mg	required before continue the protocol

## COVID 19: Phenobarbital SEWS EtOH Withdrawal Protocol

(Age < or = 70, No Overt Liver Failure,

SEWS Symptom Scale (Severity of Ethanol Withdrawal Scale)		
	Yes	
ANXIETY: Do you feel that something bad is about to happen to you right now?	3	
NAUSEA and DRY HEAVES or VOMITING?	3	
SWEATING (includes moist palms, sweating now)?	2	
TREMOR: with arms extended, eyes closed	2	
AGITATION: fidgety, restless, pacing	3	
ORIENTATION: Name, place, date		
All three	0	
Only two	1	
Only one or none	3	
HALLUCINATIONS	3	
Visual, tactile, olfactory, gustatory (any)		
VITAL SIGNS: ANY of the following	3	
Pulse >110		
Diastolic BP >90		
Temp >99.6 °F or 37.6 °C		
TOTAL SCORE =		
1-6 (MILD)		
7-12 (MODERATE)		
13 or Greater (SEVERE)		

### \*Hold Drug if Sedated (i.e. Hold drug if RASS equal to -1 or lower)

#### (RASS) Richmond Agitation Sedation Scale

Score	Term	Description
+4	Combative	Overtly combative, violent, immediate danger to staff
+3	Very agitated	Pulls or removes tube(s) or catheter(s); aggressive
+2	Agitated	Frequent non-purposeful movement
+1	Restless	Anxious, apprehensive, but movements not aggressive
0	Alert & Calm	Alert and calm
-1	Drowsy	Not fully alert, but has sustained awakening (eye-opening/eye contact) to voice (>10sec)
-2	Light Sedation	Briefly awakens with eye contact to <i>voice</i> (<10sec)
-3	Moderate Sedation	Movement or eye opening to <i>voice</i> (but no eye contact)
-4	Deep Sedation	No response to voice, but movement or eye opening to <i>physical</i> stimulation

Reviewed DPSQ 4.2.2020

Approved ICC Safety Section 4.1.2020

### COVID 19: Phenobarbital SEWS EtOH Withdrawal Protocol (Age < or = 70, No Overt Liver Failure,

-5 Unarousable No response to *voice or physical* stimulation