

# COVID 19: Lorazepam SEWS EtOH Withdrawal Protocol

(Age > 70, Overt Liver Failure, End Stage Renal Failure,

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

**Nursing Orders:**

- [x] Place patient on continuous pulse ox if RASS -1 or lower
- [x] Elevate HOB if RASS -1 or lower
- [x] Notify provider if RASS -2 or lower
- [x] Awaken patient to assess SEWS score
- [x] Do not administer Lorazepam if patient sedated (RASS equal to -1 or lower)
- [x] Reassess patient in 30 min if RASS -1 or lower
- [x] If 10 mg Lorazepam dose reached within 12 hrs, face-to-face provider assessment required before continue protocol.
- [x] If SEWS > or = 7 after three Lorazepam doses over 6 hours, call provider
- [x] If signs/symptoms result in SEWS assessment earlier than scheduled, call provider to determine treatment strategy and time of next SEWS assessment.

**SEWS Assessment Frequency:**

- |                             |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| [x] SEWS = 0                | Next SEWS in 4 hours |
| [x] SEWS = 1-6 (MILD)       | Next SEWS in 4 hours |
| [x] SEWS = 7-12 (MODERATE)  | Next SEWS in 3 hours |
| [x] SEWS > or = 13 (SEVERE) | Next SEWS in 2 hours |

- [x] If SEWS = 0 for 48 hours, call provider to discontinue SEWS protocol.
- [x] Protocol expires after 10 days

**Vitamins:**

- [ ] Thiamine 100 mg PO Daily x 3 Days
- [ ] Folic Acid 1 mg PO Daily x 3 Days
- [ ] Multivitamin one tab Daily

If unable to take PO:

- [ ] Yellow bag IV Daily x 3 Days
  - Thiamine 100 mg
  - Multivitamin 10 mL
  - Folic Acid 1 mg

**Provider ALERT:**

**Consider alternative diagnoses for cause of patient's Autonomic Hyperactivity or Mental Status Changes.**  
(e.g. sepsis, hepatic encephalopathy)

**Lorazepam only recommended when age > 70, Overt Hepatic Failure (Jaundice, Ascites, Spider Angioma), End Stage Renal Failure or Pregnancy**

**If SEWS Score 1 to 6 (MILD)**

- [x] Lorazepam 2 mg PO Q4 hr PRN SEWS 1-6

- [x] Hold Lorazepam if RASS equal to -1 or lower
- [x] If 10 mg Lorazepam dose reached within 12 hrs, face-to-face provider assessment required before continue protocol.

**If SEWS Score 7 to 12 (MODERATE)**

- [x] Lorazepam 2mg PO Q3 hr PRN SEWS 7-12

- [x] Hold Lorazepam if RASS equal to -1 or lower
- [x] If 10 mg Lorazepam dose reached within 12 hrs, face-to-face provider assessment required before continue protocol.

**If SEWS Score > or = 13 (SEVERE)**

- [x] Lorazepam 2 mg PO Q2 hr PRN SEWS > or = 13

- [x] Hold Lorazepam if RASS equal to -1 or lower
- [x] If 10 mg Lorazepam dose reached within 12 hrs, face-to-face provider assessment required before continue protocol.

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<b>SEWS Symptom Scale (Severity of Ethanol Withdrawal Scale)</b>	
	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 Only two Only one or none	0 1 3
HALLUCINATIONS Visual, tactile, olfactory, gustatory (any)	3
VITAL SIGNS: <u>ANY</u> of the following Pulse >110 Diastolic BP >90 Temp >99.6 °F or 37.6 °C	3
TOTAL SCORE =	

**\* 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 <i>voice</i> (>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
-5	Unarousable	No response to <i>voice or physical</i> stimulation

1-6 (MILD)  
7-12 (MODERATE)  
13 or Greater (SEVERE)

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