

(Patient label)
Hospital number
Surname
First name
DOB
NHS Number

Simplified Sarnat Criteria (Assess as many signs as possible). Screening Tool to aid in the ongoing neurological assessment of Hypoxic Ischaemic encephalopathy.									
Severity	Normal / Mild Encephalopathy	Moderate Encephalopathy	Severe Encephalopathy						
Level of Consciousness	Hyperalert*	Decreased = Reduced Response to non-painful stimulation ("lethargic")	Absent= only responds to painful stimuli ("stupor"); or no or minimal response to pain ("coma")	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe
Spontaneous activity	Normal or Increased*	Decreased	None	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe
Tone	Normal or increased in trunk AND extremities*	Hypotonia = reduced trunk OR extremity tone OR both	Flaccid = no tone	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe
Suck reflex	Normal or weak	Weak, incomplete	Absent / absent	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe
Moro reflex	Strong, Low threshold	Incomplete	Absent	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe
Respiratory abnormality	Normal	Periodic breathing	Apnoea	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe	Normal Mild Moderate Severe
*If not evident, circle as normal. To be assessed and completed by medical team. Circle to indicate whether the sign is consistent with normal, mild, moderate or severe NE. 2 or more highest scores indicates overall severity.				Date					
				Time					
				Sign:					

*Infants who meet at least one A criterion but on initial examination are neurologically normal should be reviewed several times in the first 6 hours of life by a trained practitioner who is competent in Neonatal neurological examination. (EoE ODN (2012). HIE guideline. Available at: <https://eoneonatalpccsincnetwork.nhs.uk/neonatal/baby-brain-protection-group/>)

Adapted from: Newborn clinical network. (2019) Consensus for treatment of neonatal Encephalopathy. Available at: [Sarnat_criteria.pdf \(starship.org.nz\)](#)