Sedation–Agitation Scale (SAS)

7	Dangerous agitation	Pulling at ET tube, trying to remove catheters, climbing over bed rail, striking at staff, thrashing side-to-side
6	Very agitated	Does not calm, despite frequent verbal reminding of limits; requires physical restraints, biting ET tube
5	Agitated	Anxious or mildly agitated, attempting to sit up, calms down to verbal instructions
4	Calm and cooperative	Calm, awakens easily, follows commands
3	Sedated	Difficult to arouse, awakens to verbal stimuli or gentle shaking but drifts off again, follows simple commands
2	Very sedated	Arouses to physical stimuli but does not communicate or follow commands, may move spontaneously
1	Unarousable	Minimal or no response to noxious stimuli, does not communicate or follow commands

Ramsay Scale (10)
1. Anxious and agitated or restless or both
2. Cooperative, oriented, and tranquil
3. Responding to commands only
4. Brisk response to light glabellar tap
5. Sluggish response to light glabellar tap
6. No response to light glabellar tap

Harris Scale (13)
A. General condition
  1. Confused and uncontrollable
  2. Anxious and agitated
  3. Conscious, oriented, and calm
  4. Asleep but rousable to speech, obeys command
  5. Asleep but responds to loud auditory stimulus or sternal pressure
  6. Unrousable
B. Compliance with mechanical ventilation
  1. Unable to control ventilation
  2. Distressed, fighting ventilator
  3. Coughing when moved but tolerating ventilation for most of the time
  4. Tolerating movement
C. Response to endotracheal suctioning
  1. Agitation, distress, prolonged coughing
  2. Coughs, distressed, rapid recovery
  3. Coughs, not distressed
  4. No cough

ET, endotracheal.

Table 1. Subjective scales to rate sedation and agitation