

### Introduction

The AVPU scale is a system where you can measure and record a patient's responsiveness to indicate their level of consciousness. It is a simplification of the Glasgow Coma Scale, which assesses a patient response in three measures: eyes, voice, and motor skills. The AVPU scale should be assessed during these three identifiable traits, looking for the best response for each. It has four possible outcomes for recording and the nurse should always work from best (A) to worst (U) to avoid unnecessary tests on patients who are clearly conscious. On the other hand, it should not be used for long-term follow up of neurological status.. A: Alert

V: Response to Verbal Stimuli

P: Response to Pain

U: Unresponsive

### AVPU

**NURSING HEALTH ASSESSMENT**  
**NURSING MNEMONICS & TIPS**  
**LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS ASSESSMENT**  
**"AVPU"**

	ADULT BEHAVIOR	PEDIATRIC BEHAVIOR
<b>A</b> ALERT	Eyes open spontaneously. Appears aware of and responsive to the environment. Follows commands; eyes track peoples and objects.	Child is active and responds appropriately to SO and other external stimuli.
<b>V</b> VOICE	Eye do not open spontaneously but open to verbal stimuli. Able to respond in some meaningful way when spoken to.	Responds only when his or her name is called by SO.
<b>P</b> PAIN	Does not respond to questions but moves or cries out in response to painful stimuli such as pinching the skin or earlobe.	Responds only when painful stimuli is received such as pinching the nail bed.
<b>U</b> UNRESPONSIVE	Patient does not respond to any stimuli.	No response at all.

**LEARN MORE: THE "AVPU" SCALE**  
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Not published yet.  
 Last updated 21st July, 2016.  
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