

RIKER Sedation/Agitation Scale (SAS)		
Sedation Agitation Level	Description	Typical scenarios
7	Dangerous agitation Pulls at endotracheal tube (ET) Tries to remove catheters	Not applicable
6	Very agitated Does not calm, despite frequent verbal reminding of limits Requires physical constraints Bites ET tube	Not applicable
5	Agitated Anxious or mildly sedated Attempts to sit up Calms down to verbal instructions	Mild agitation associated with confusion at night with elderly patients; Mild symptoms of alcohol withdrawal
4	Calm and cooperative Calms, awakens easily Follows commands	Intubated patients who have shown no inclination to pull on the endotracheal tube; Alcohol withdrawal patients who protect airway and can be positioned in aspiration precautions
3	Sedated Difficult to arouse Awakens to verbal stimuli or gentle shaking but drifts off again Follows simple commands	Intubated patients who pull catheters or endotracheal tube when aroused
2	Very Sedated Arouses to physical stimuli but does not communicate or follow commands May move spontaneously	Intubated, severe cardiac or pulmonary compromise which deteriorates off sedation.
1	Unarousable Minimal or no response to noxious stimuli does not communicate or follow commands	For severe immediately life threatening pulmonary failure, open abdomen; Increased intracranial pressure.