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WHITE PAPER

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# Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient

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## MESSAGING TOOLKIT



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Thank you for helping spread the word about the *Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient* white paper. Use this toolkit to educate and empower others about the importance of neurological assessments as a tool to implement interventions and prevent injury.

[Download](#) the *Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient* white paper. The purpose of this document is to describe the essential components of the neurological assessment of the hospitalized adult, enabling the nurse to recognize early neurological changes so that interventions can be implemented in a timely manner to prevent injury.

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## Social Media Messages

Please share the below messages and images. Follow AANN on social media using the links below. Use the **#AANNneuroassessment** hashtag in related posts.



[insert name of organization] supports nurses performing independent patient assessments. Learn how to perform a neurological assessment using AANN's free tool at [aann.org/neuroassessment](https://aann.org/neuroassessment) #AANNneuroassessment



We're committed to improving the health of hospitalized patients through performing standardized neurological assessments. Check out AANN's free neurological assessment tool backed by evidence-based data at [aann.org/neuroassessment](https://aann.org/neuroassessment) #AANNneuroassessment



The free AANN Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient white paper includes tables, checklists, and evidence-based information for how to perform a neurological assessment on an awake and alert patient or a patient with altered consciousness. Access the tool at [aann.org/neuroassessment](https://aann.org/neuroassessment) #AANNneuroassessment



For endorsing organizations:  
[insert name of organization] is proud to endorse the AANN Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient white paper. The white paper includes information about the timing of the assessment, intervention and documentation, components of the assessment, baseline checklists and more. Check out this free resource at [aann.org/neuroassessment](https://aann.org/neuroassessment) #AANNneuroassessment

## AANN Social Media Accounts

Facebook: [facebook.com/neuronurses](https://facebook.com/neuronurses)

Twitter: [twitter.com/neuronursesaann](https://twitter.com/neuronursesaann)

Instagram: [instagram.com/neuronursesaann](https://instagram.com/neuronursesaann)

LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/aann-american-association-of-neuroscience-nurses](https://linkedin.com/company/aann-american-association-of-neuroscience-nurses)

## Social Media Graphics

Click [here](#) to download.

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## Sample Email

Subject line: Free neuro assessment tool from AANN

[Web Version](#)

—AANN'S WHITE PAPER—

# Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient

Timely and accurate assessment of a patient's neurological status is an important aspect of nursing care. All patients have the potential for a neurological event, whether they have a neurological primary diagnosis or not. Nurses are instrumental in preventing irreversible damage by identifying patients' subtle changes from baseline that could signal deterioration.

It is within the scope of nursing practice to perform independent patient assessments. Currently, there is no standard of care for the neurological assessment of the hospitalized adult. According to the 3rd edition of *Neuroscience Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* from the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), standards of practice describe a competent level of nursing care, as demonstrated by the nursing process. The first of these standards is assessment.

As the leader in neuroscience nursing, AANN recognized the importance of having a consistent standard assessment and developed a white paper delineating that standard. The purpose of this document is to describe the essential components of the neurological assessment of the hospitalized adult, enabling the nurse to recognize early neurological changes so that interventions can be implemented in a timely manner to prevent injury.

A list of assessment components for both the awake and alert hospitalized patient and the patient with altered consciousness guides the nurse, creating structure around the identification of neurological changes in the patient. Reflecting those components in the electronic health record allows the nurse to document findings consistently. A standardized approach can assist with rapid identification of neurological changes so interventions can be initiated promptly.

[Read](#) the free *Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient* white paper on the AANN website. Get more information about upcoming webinars and updates to the white paper by following AANN on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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## Newsletter Content

Timely and accurate assessment of a patient's neurological status is an important aspect of nursing care. All patients have the potential for a neurological event, whether they have a neurological primary diagnosis or not. Nurses are instrumental in preventing irreversible damage by identifying patients' subtle changes from baseline that could signal deterioration.

As the leader in neuroscience nursing, AANN recognized the importance of having a consistent standard assessment and developed a white paper delineating that standard. [Read](#) the free *Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient* white paper on the AANN website. The purpose of this document is to describe the essential components of the neurological assessment of the hospitalized adult, enabling the nurse to recognize early neurological changes so that interventions can be implemented in a timely manner to prevent injury.

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## Press Release



For Immediate Release

### News Release

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### **The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses Publishes *Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient* White Paper**

Chicago, IL—April 2022—The American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN) published a *Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient* white paper.

A timely and accurate assessment of a patient's neurological status is an important aspect of nursing care. All patients have the potential for a neurological event, whether they have a neurological primary diagnosis or not. Currently, there is no standard of care for the neurological assessment of the hospitalized adult. As the leader in neuroscience nursing, the AANN recognized the importance of a consistent standard assessment for the nurse and appointed a task force to develop a white paper delineating that standard.

The purpose of the white paper is to describe the essential components of the neurological assessment of the hospitalized adult, enabling the nurse to recognize early neurological changes, so interventions can be implemented in a timely manner to prevent injury. The white paper includes information about the timing of the assessment, intervention and documentation, components of the assessment, baseline checklists, and more. A standardized approach can assist with rapid identification of neurological changes so interventions can be initiated promptly.

"These essential components of a neurological assessment provide a standard for nurses from all specialties who care for hospitalized adults. AANN is proud to offer this free resource for the benefit of all nurses to improve patient care," commented Cathy Cartwright, DNP RN-BC PCNS FAAN, member of the Clinical Science Committee Neurological Assessment Task Force.

To access the *Neurological Assessment of the Adult Hospitalized Patient*, please visit [AANN.org/neuroassessment](https://www.aann.org/neuroassessment).

### **About AANN**

Founded in 1968, the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses (AANN), an organization of more than 5,400 members worldwide, is committed to working for the highest standard of care for neuroscience patients by advancing the science and practice of neuroscience nursing. AANN accomplishes this through continuing education, information dissemination, standard setting, and advocacy on behalf of neuroscience patients, families, and nurses. For more information, visit [AANN.org](https://www.aann.org).

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## Helpful Links

Advocacy: [AANN.org/advocacy](https://www.aann.org/advocacy)

Online Store: [AANN.org/onlinestore](https://www.aann.org/onlinestore)

Webinars: [AANN.org/webinars](https://www.aann.org/webinars)

## Acknowledgements

The nursing profession and AANN are indebted to the volunteers who have devoted their time and expertise to this valuable resource.

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