

## **Pasero Opioid-induced Sedation Scale (POSS) with Interventions\***

**S = Sleep, easy to arouse**

*Acceptable; no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed*

**1 = Awake and alert**

*Acceptable; no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed*

**2 = Slightly drowsy, easily aroused**

*Acceptable; no action necessary; may increase opioid dose if needed*

**3 = Frequently drowsy, arousable, drifts off to sleep during conversation**

*Unacceptable; monitor respiratory status and sedation level closely until sedation level is stable at less than 3 and respiratory status is satisfactory; decrease opioid dose 25% to 50% or notify prescriber or anesthesiologist for orders; consider administering a non-sedating, opioid-sparing nonopioid, such as acetaminophen or a NSAID, if not contraindicated.*

**4 = Somnolent, minimal or no response to verbal and physical stimulation**

*Unacceptable; stop opioid; consider administering naloxone; notify prescriber<sup>2</sup> or anesthesiologist; monitor respiratory status and sedation level closely until sedation level is stable at less than 3 and respiratory status is satisfactory.*

\*See appropriate action in italics at each level of sedation.

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