

# Chapter 11: Workload scoring systems

The IRS has the following workload scoring systems:

- TISS
- TISS 28
- NEMS

## TISS

The TISS (Therapeutic Intervention Score System) is an acknowledged and validated instrument that has already often been used. It consists of a number of therapeutic/nursing acts to which a certain weight is awarded. When the number of acts performed on a patient is determined, the sum of the weights results after processing in the TISS-score. The TISS is an indicator of the amount of care invested and does not reflect all nursing and therapeutic acts performed in a patient. Certain acts will not be found in the TISS. The TISS should be determined daily; it covers the past 24 hours. It is advised to score all patients at the same time (e.g. 08.00h in the morning). Patients who has spent less than 12 hours in the ICU at that very moment are for the first time scored the next morning. If the whole admission does not cover an interval of 24 hours, then the TISS is also determined on this abnormal interval. If a patient spends less than 6 hours in the ICU the TISS is not scored;

## NEMS

The NEMS (Nine Equivalents of nursing Manpower use Score) is a validated, simplicated version of TISS (Therapeutic Intervention Scoring System). **As TISS, NEMS measures nursing workload.** NEMS scores selected nursing activities for a period of 24 hours. So, NEMS is scored every day for each patient. When a patient stays shorter than 6 hours, no NEMS is scored. If the patient leaves the ICU within 24 but after 6 hours, the patient is scored at the moment of discharge. NEMS consists of the following items:

1. Basic monitoring - hourly vital signs, regular record and calculation of fluid balance.
2. Intravenous medication - bolus or continuously, not including vaso-active drugs.
- 3 Mechanical ventilatory support - any form of mechanical/assisted ventilation, with or without PEEP, with or without muscle relaxants. **La monitorización mecánica no invasiva sería considerada como lo que es: ventilación mecánica; de la misma manera la ventilación con CPAP si bien es cierto que mejora fundamentalmente la oxigenación también facilita la ventilación y por tanto se la considera como ventilación asistida.**
4. Supplementary ventilatory support - breathing spontaneously through endotracheal tube; supplementary oxygen any method, except if 3) applies.
5. Single vaso-active medication - any vaso-active drug. **Son vasoactivas: dopa, dobuta, noradrenalina, adrenalina, nitroprusiato, nitroglicerina. No antiarrítmicos, etc.**
6. Multiple vaso-active medication - more than one vaso-active drug, irrespective of type and dosis.
7. Dialysis techniques - all.
8. Specific interventions in the ICU - such as ET intubation, introduction of pace-maker, cardio-version, endoscopy, emergency operation in the past 24 hours, gastric lavage; routine inter-ventions such as X-rays, echocardiography, ECG, dressings, introduction of venous or arterial lines, are not included. **Sí lo están la Monitorización de Swan-Ganz, contrapulsador, monitorización de marcapasos temporales (transcutaneos o endocavitarios).**
9. Specific interventions outside the ICU - such as surgical intervention or diagnostic procedure; the intervention/procedure is related to the severity of illness of the patient and makes an extra demand upon manpower efforts at the ICU. **Este ítem hace referencia a cuando el personal dde UCI acompaña al paciente a cualquier prueba diagnóstica o terapéutica fuera de la unidad como es el caso de la realización de TAC o hemodinámicas, etc.**