

Early Warning Scores

Nursing

What an aggregate observation score is for, and the four ways it is misread.

An early warning score converts routine observations into a single number that triggers a defined response.

BUILT FROM

Routine observations

TRIGGERS

A defined response

NEVER

Replaces judgement

- Physiological derangement precedes most arrests
- Each observation contributes points by how deranged
- The response is set by policy, not by preference
- A single high parameter can trigger on its own
- Rising trend matters as much as absolute score
- Clinical concern overrides a reassuring score

LOOK FOR IT

A score that has climbed across three sets is more concerning than one high reading.

Educational reference. Scores, thresholds and escalation timings differ between institutions and age groups — use your own chart.