

□ Clinical Criteria

Clinical criteria are predefined clinical signs, symptoms, or measurements used to support diagnosis, guide treatment decisions, or determine inclusion/exclusion in a protocol or study.

□ Key Characteristics

- Based on **observable or measurable clinical findings**
- Often established by **guidelines, consensus panels**, or **evidence-based protocols**
- Can include:
 - Vital signs (e.g., GCS, blood pressure, temperature)
 - Symptoms (e.g., headache, focal deficit, confusion)
 - Physical findings (e.g., pupillary response, neck stiffness)
 - Laboratory thresholds (e.g., INR > 1.5)

□ Example Use Cases

- Defining **mild traumatic brain injury**: GCS 13–15, no focal deficits, no altered consciousness >30 min
- Determining eligibility for **surgical intervention**
- Classifying **stroke severity** or **sepsis risk**

□ Best Practice

- Use validated criteria when available (e.g., NIHSS for stroke, SIRS for sepsis)
- Document clearly in clinical notes when criteria are met or not
- Reassess frequently if dynamic

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Last update: **2025/06/14 19:59**

