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Research Integrity Unit

# Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC)

# **MONITORING SHEET TEMPLATE: INTENSIVE OBSERVATION**

### Instructions

* Insert Principal Investigator or Supervisor’s name and the emergency contact numbers in the space provided on the monitoring sheets. These should be consistent with the ACEC Application and Approval.
* Monitoring frequency will vary from twice daily after surgery and decrease as the animal improves.
* These monitoring records are intended to be applicable to a wide range of projects and should be contextualised for your specific project as needed.
* **Some of the clinical signs may be inappropriate markers of welfare for some species-they are based on common markers for rodents. If the signs listed below are not relevant, please replace them with clinical signs that are more relevant/appropriate for your subject species**. Examples might include ‘*teeth grinding in sheep* = Grade 2’, ‘*comatose/obtunded state in most species* = Grade 3’

**Monitoring sheet: Intensive Observation:**

* This sheet is for use during periods when the wellbeing of an animal may potentially be compromised e.g. disease models; administration of drugs or other treatments; post-surgery.
* **Monitoring groups**
	+ “cage” or ‘pen’ should be selected when you are monitoring cages or pens of animals on a single sheet.
	+ “individual” should be selected when you are monitoring 1 animal on a single sheet.
* **Monitoring criteria**
	+ The general clinical signs listed are applicable and are organised by severity grade (1, 2, or 3).
* **Grades- N.B. the descriptions of actions to be taken are advisory only and should NOT override expert veterinary advice.**
	+ Grade 1 – Animal must be monitored again within 8 hours; if the signs have not improved advice must be sought from the CI or a veterinarian.
	+ Grade 2 – Advice must be sought from the CI or a veterinarian.
	+ Grade 3 – The animal must be immediately euthanised to prevent further suffering.
* Detailed notes and an action plan may be recorded in the **‘Detailed Record’** on the next page.

**Monitoring Sheet: Intensive Observation**

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| **Authority Number (ACEC protocol number)** |  |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Principal Investigator/Supervisor’s Name** |  |
| **Emergency Phone No. (mobile)** |  |
| **Cage or Pen #** |  |
| **Room No** |  |
| **Strain (if relevant)** |  |
| **Animal ID No’s** |  |
| **Monitoring group:**  [ ]  Cage/Pen [ ]  Individual [ ]  Other (specify) |
| **Frequency of monitoring:** [ ]  Twice Daily [ ]  Daily [ ]  3 x weekly [ ]  Other (specify) |

**NAD (No abnormalities detected) –** No action required

**Grade 1 –** Monitor againwithin 8 hours; if not improved seek advice from CI or veterinarian

**Grade 2 –** Seek advice from CI or veterinarian; euthanasia may be required

**Grade 3 –** Euthanise animal immediately to prevent further suffering

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|  **Date or Time****Monitoring criteria** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Observer initials** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **NAD** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weight (grams) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grade 1 signs**  |
| Ruffled fur |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lethargic or hyperactive |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Shallow or rapid breathing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grade 2 signs**  |
| Altered gait |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hunched posture |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Diarrhoea |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Abnormal discharge at any orifice |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Eyes partially closed  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Laboured breathing |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Enlarged abdomen |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wounds or other lesions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Blood in cage or on animal |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Prolapse |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Repetitive behaviour (e.g backflips; running in circles) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Thin |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weight loss >15% BW |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grade 3 signs**  |
| Gasping respiration |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Low response to stimuli |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Emaciated |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Project Specific Signs (Grade 1, 2, or 3 in brackets)**  |
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**Monitoring Sheet: Detailed Record**

***\*NOTE:*** *Record animal ID, observations, progress of an animal’s condition, treatments given, and the plan on this page.*

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| **Date** | **Details of abnormal finding, action taken, and plan** | **Initials** |
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