

Clock Drawing Test Documentation Cheat Sheet

Reviewed by the BastionGPT Clinical Advisory Board · August 2026 · Reproduces no rubric text, forms, or scoring tables

The clock drawing test is a family of tasks, not one instrument: at least a dozen named scoring systems use different ranges, directions, conditions, and requested times, and the MoCA and Mini-Cog clocks belong to their parent instruments. A score means nothing without five facts: the system with its range and direction, command or copy, blank page or pre-drawn circle, the exact time requested, and the errors in words. It screens; it never diagnoses, decides capacity, or clears driving.

Context and indication standalone or embedded

Do: record why the clock was drawn; if it sits inside a MoCA, Mini-Cog, or SLUMS, chart it as that instrument's component.

Pitfall: "MoCA clock 2/3" detached as a standalone CDT, or re-scored with a standalone rubric.

System, range, direction even Shulman is 0-5 or 1-6

Do: name the system and anchors: Shulman 0-5 higher better, CLOX1/CLOX2 each 0-15, Mini-Cog 0 or 2.

Pitfall: "clock 4": totals of 5, 7, 10, 15, and 20 describe different performances.

Condition, substrate, time test specifications, not trivia

Do: chart command vs copy (and order), blank page vs pre-drawn circle, and the exact time (11:10 tests both hemifields and the ten-to-2 recoding).

Pitfall: scores compared across different conditions or times as serial data.

Administration integrity keep the first attempt

Do: record repetitions, cueing, restarts and which attempt was scored, corrections, refusal.

Pitfall: a discarded first clock; abandoned contours carry the process information.

Score + errors in words the description is the content

Do: report the number, then the pattern: omissions, crowding, stimulus-bound hands, perseveration, spatial planning, graphic difficulty.

Pitfall: a bare score; reviewers cannot tell a planning failure from a motor one.

Confounds and validity delirium and clock familiarity included

Do: chart vision, hearing, motor, literacy, analog-clock familiarity, medications, delirium status; conclude interpretable / with caution / not interpretable.

Pitfall: an inpatient clock during delirium read as dementia, or Gen-Z unfamiliarity scored as impairment.

Interpretation + retention screen, scan, refer

Do: keep conclusions to a screen, scan the drawing (it outlives the score), and chart the follow-up chain with an owner.

Pitfall: a screen charted as a verdict, or the drawing binned so only a number remains.

Before the note is signed

- ☐ System named with range and direction
- ☐ Condition, substrate, and requested time charted
- ☐ Administration integrity recorded; first attempt kept
- ☐ Errors described in words, not just scored
- ☐ Confounds screened; validity conclusion drawn
- ☐ Kept a screen: no diagnosis, capacity, or driving verdict
- ☐ Drawing scanned; follow-up chain with owner and date

Drafting with AI

Give it the facts: system with range and direction, condition, substrate, time requested, score, observed errors, confounds, disclosure, plan.

"Draft clock documentation: standalone command clock, blank page, 11:10, Shulman 0-5 scored 2, numbers 9-12 omitted, hands to 10 and 11, copy condition 5/5, no tremor, daughter reports missed bills, assessment visit 08/28."

Never paste patient-identifying information into consumer AI tools. BastionGPT is HIPAA-compliant with a signed BAA on every plan.

Name the system

ranges run 0-3 to 0-20; directions differ

5 facts fix a score

system, condition, substrate, time, errors

Command vs copy

the contrast is the signal

Screen, not verdict

MCI sensitivity is about 0.63

Clock Drawing Test Documentation Template

Copy or print for your practice · Adapt fields to your organization's, payer's and jurisdiction's documentation requirements. Contains no test content.

Setting: _____ Patient (initials): _____ Date: _____ Clinician: _____

System + range + direction: _____ Condition + substrate + time requested: _____

Indication and instrument status

Why drawn · standalone or embedded (MoCA / Mini-Cog / SLUMS component stays with its parent)

Administration integrity

Repetitions · cueing · restarts and which attempt scored · corrections · refusal · first attempt kept

Score and qualitative description

Numeric score · omissions · duplications · spacing · sequence · hand placement · stimulus-bound response · perseveration · graphic difficulty

Copy condition (if given)

Score + description under the same system · command-copy contrast stated as an observation

Confounds and validity

Vision · hearing · motor and tremor · literacy · analog-clock familiarity · medications · delirium status · conclusion: interpretable / with caution / not interpretable

Interpretation and disclosure

Screen result only · what it does not establish · plain-terms disclosure and who was present

Retention, plan, and owner

Drawing scanned · collateral and function · medication review · fuller assessment or referral · owner and date

Clinician (name and credentials): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____