Dependency in activities of daily living

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000309   Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: An indicator of a person's ability to carry out activities of daily living without assistance.

Context: Dependency reflects the person's need, rather than the actual service provision which addresses that need. This is essential information in the community environment, where the relationship between a person's functional status and care allocated is not direct. The involvement of 'informal' carers, the possibility of resource allocation being driven by availability rather than need, and the vulnerability of system to inequity, all require a 'standard' view of the person. It is against this background that resource allocation and carer burden can then be monitored.

It is important to distinguish between this view of dependency and that of the institutional system, where a dependency 'measure' may be used to predict or dictate staffing needs or to allocate funding. The following is an example of the minimum items, which are indicative of dependency.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: NNN

Minimum Size: 1

Maximum Size: 3

Data Domain: -   All items must be completed.
Select the appropriate code from the options provided for each of the above dependency items.

a)   Mobility* 1 2 3 4

b)   Toileting 1 2 3 4
c)   Transferring 1 2 3 4 5
d)   Bathing 1 2 3 4
e)   Dressing 1 2 3 4
f)   Eating 1 2 3 4 5
g)   Bed mobility 1 2 3 4 5
h)   Bladder continence 1 2 3 4 5 6
i)   Bowel continence 1 2 3 4 5
j)   Extra surveillance* 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
k)   Technical care** not required, or time in minutes

Guide For Use: Services may elect to adopt the measures as defined in this item or adopt one of the following tools now available, such as the Bryan, Barthel, Katz, Functional Independence Measure, Resource Utilisation Groups etc. Each agency should seek to adopt a dependency classification, which can be mapped to other classifications and produce equivalent scores.

All items must be completed

Select the appropriate code from the options provided for activities a) to g) when:

1 = Independent
2 = Requires observation or rare physical assistance
3 = Cannot perform the activity without some assistance
4 = Full assistance required (totally dependent); for bed mobility - a hoist is used
5 = For transferring - person is bedfast; for eating - tube-fed only; for bed mobility - 2 persons physical assist is required
* applies to walking, walking aid or wheelchair

Select the appropriate code for h) Bladder continence when:
1=Continent of urine (includes independence in use of device)
2=Incontinent less than daily
3=Incontinent once per 24 hour period
4=Incontinent 2-6 times per 24 hour period
5=Incontinent more than 6 times per 24 hour period
6=Incontinent more than once at night only

Select the appropriate code for I) Bowel continence when:
1 = Continent of faeces (includes independence in use of device)
2 = Incontinent less than daily
3 = Incontinent once per 24 hour period
4 = Incontinent regularly, more than once per 24 hour period
5 = Incontinent more than once at night only

Select the appropriate code for j) Extra surveillance* when:
1 = No additional attention required

2 = Less than 30 minutes individual attention per day
3 = More than 30 and more than or equal to 90 minutes individual attention per day
4 = Requires at least two hours intervention per week on an episodic basis
5 = More than 90 minutes but less than almost constant individual attention
6 = Requires almost constant individual attention
7 = Cannot be left alone at all
* Extra surveillance refers to behaviour, which requires individual attention and/or planned intervention. Some examples of extra surveillance are:
- aggressiveness
- wandering
- impaired memory or attention
- disinhibition and other cognitive impairment.

Select the appropriate code for k) Technical care** not required, or time in minutes, when:
1 = No technical care requirements
or
____ = Daytime technical (minutes per week)
____ = Evening technical (minutes per week)
____ = Night-time technical (minutes per week)
____ = Infrequent technical (minutes per month)

** Technical care refers to technical tasks and procedures for which nurses receive specific education and which require nursing knowledge of expected therapeutic effect, possible side-effects, complications and appropriate actions related to each. In the community nursing setting, carers may undertake some of these activities within, and under surveillance, of a nursing care-plan. Some examples of technical care activities are:
- medication administration (including injections)
- dressings and other procedures
- venipuncture
- monitoring of dialysis
- implementation of pain management technology.

Collection Methods: Commencement of Care episode. (There may be several visits in which assessment data are gathered.)

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Client dependency version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: Australian Council of Community Nursing Services

Comments: There are a significant number of dependency instruments in use in the community and institutional care. The CNMDSA recommends the adoption of a dependency tool from a limited range of options as outlined in Guide for use.

The data domain specified in this item consists of a number of standard elements, which can be used to map to and/or score from the majority of them.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM   Functional wellbeing

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

Draft DSS - CNMDSA for Community   From 01-Jul-00 to
Nursing