# Activity - level of difficulty

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <a href="http://meteor.aihw.gov.au">http://meteor.aihw.gov.au</a>

# Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000560 Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration NCSIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Authority: Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The level of difficulty that an individual has in executing an activity.

Activity is the execution of a task or action by an individual. Activity limitations are difficulties an individual may have in executing an

activity.

Context: Activity limitation varies with the environment and is assessed in

relation to a particular environment; the absence or presence of assistance, including aids and equipment, is an aspect of the

environment

# Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational CODE

form:

Representation N

layout:

Minimum Size: 1 Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain: 0 No difficulty

1 Mild difficulty

Moderate difficulty
Severe difficulty
Complete difficulty

9 Not stated/inadequately described

Guide For Use: The area in which an individual experiences an activity limitation

is indicated in the data element 'Activities and participation domains'. The presence of an activity limitation with a given activity is indicated by a non-zero response in this data domain. Activity is limited when an individual, in the context of a health condition, either has difficulty performing an activity in an

expected manner, or cannot perform the activity at all. Difficulties with activities can arise when there is a qualitative or quantitative alteration in the way in which these activities are carried out. Activity limitations are assessed against a generally accepted population standard, relative to cultural and social expectations.

Activity limitation is assessed in relation to a specific environment; the absence or presence of assistance, including aids and equipment, is an aspect of the environment.

Collection Methods: This metadata item is used in conjunction with 'Activities and participation domains'. Individual domains can be selected as activities or the list as a whole can be treated as either activities or participation.

> This data element, in combination with 'Activities and participation domains', indicates the presence and extent of activity limitation in a given activity.

Many existing assessment tools are in use, and are embedded in measurement and payment methods in services in Australia. Calibration and mapping of existing tools within this international framework will be an important process towards greater national consistency of data on the level of difficulty with activities.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Activity - level of difficulty version 1

> relates to the data element concept Disability version 2 relates to the data element concept Functioning version 1 relates to the data element concept Activity - functioning, disability and health version 1

relates to the data element concept Participation - functioning, disability and health version 1

relates to the data element concept Assistance with activities and participation version 1

### Administrative Attributes

Source Document: World Health Organization (WHO) 2001. ICF: International

Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva:

WHO.

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2003. ICF

Australian User Guide V1.0. Canberra: AIHW.

Source Organisation: World Health Organization

Comments: The ICF recognises two constructs that can be used with 'Activities' and participation domains': performance and capacity.

> Capacity is assessed in a standardised environment and 'reflects' the highest probable level of functioning that a person may reach in

a given domain at a given moment' (WHO 2001). A standardised environment may be '(a) an actual environment commonly used for assessment in test settings; or (b) in cases where this is not possible, an assumed environment which can be thought to have a uniform impact' (WHO 2001). Capacity is achieved in an environment that enhances the individual's ability to execute a task or an activity. Performance describes what an individual does in his or her usual environment. Performance varies according to the environmental context an individual lives and experiences. Assessment of environmental factors (physical, social and attitudinal) in conjunction with 'Activity-level of difficulty' indicates performance in a specific environment.

The gap between capacity and performance reflects the difference between the impacts of usual and uniform environments, and provides a useful guide as to what can be done to the environment of the individual to improve performance.

Performance and capacity can be assessed in the absence or presence of assistance.

The ICF was endorsed by the World Health Assembly in 2001 and is a core member of the WHO family of health related classifications. Further information on the ICF can be found in the ICF itself and the ICF Australian User Guide (AIHW 2003) and the following websites:

- Australian Collaborating Centre ICF website
   http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/icf/index.html
- WHO ICF website:

http://www3.who.int/icf/icftemplate.cfm

## Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NCSIM Person participation/independence

Data Agreements which include this Data Element