Functional Independence Measure

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Glossary Item
Synonymous names: FIM
METEOR identifier: 495857
Registration status: • Health, Standard 11/04/2014
• Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012
• Tasmanian Health, Standard 20/12/2016

Definition: An assessment of the severity of patient disability.

Context: The Functional Independence Measure (FIM™) instrument is a basic indicator of patient disability. FIM™ is used to track the changes in the functional ability of a patient during an episode of hospital rehabilitation care.

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: Patient function is assessed using the FIM™ instrument at the start of a rehabilitation episode of care and at the end of a rehabilitation episode of care. Admission assessment is collected within 72 hours of the start of a rehabilitation episode. Discharge assessment is collected within 72 hours prior to the end of a rehabilitation episode.
FIM™ is comprised of 18 items, grouped into 2 subscales - motor and cognition.

The motor subscale includes:

- Eating
- Grooming
- Bathing
- Dressing, upper body
- Dressing, lower body
- Toileting
- Bladder management
- Bowel management
- Transfers - bed/chair/wheelchair
- Transfers - toilet
- Transfers - bath/shower
- Walk/wheelchair
- Stairs

The cognition subscale includes:

- Comprehension
- Expression
- Social interaction
- Problem solving
- Memory

Each item is scored on a 7 point ordinal scale, ranging from a score of 1 to a score of 7. The higher the score, the more independent the patient is in performing the task associated with that item.

1 - Total assistance with helper
2 - Maximal assistance with helper
3 - Moderate assistance with helper
4 - Minimal assistance with helper
5 - Supervision or setup with helper
6 - Modified independence with no helper
7 - Complete independence with no helper

The total score for the FIM motor subscale (the sum of the individual motor subscale items) will be a value between 13 and 91.

The total score for the FIM cognition subscale (the sum of the individual cognition subscale items) will be a value between 5 and 35.

The total score for the FIM instrument (the sum of the motor and cognition subscale scores) will be a value between 18 and 126.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Independent Hospital Pricing Authority

Origin: FIM™ is a trademark of the Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation, a division of UB Foundation Activities Incorporated.

Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre holds the territory license for the use of the FIM™ instrument in Australia.

