



A screening tool for dementia developed by Saint Louis University (SLU) geriatricians demonstrates effectiveness in detecting mild cognitive decline. The screening tool, titled [St. Louis University Mental Status \(SLUMS\)](#) exam, shall be utilized by the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS), Division of Senior and Disability Services (DSDS), or its designee, when there is a concern about a current or potential participant's ability to self-direct their own care as required by the Personal Care Assistance Consumer-Directed (CDS) Model.

Researchers found that the screening tool developed by SLU detects early cognitive problems, specifically mild neurocognitive disorder (MNCN), missed by other screening tools. As with any screening tool, the SLUMS indicates to clinicians when they should pursue further testing in diagnosing cognitive decline or dementia.

Further evaluation of mental capacity must be pursued. This may include collateral contacts with mental health professionals or physicians to request additional information regarding the participant's mental capacity. It may also include a review of prior abuse/neglect history and information contained in the HCBS case file. The SLUMS exam cannot be used exclusively to deny CDS services or transition coordination services available through Show-Me Home (SMH) a Money Follows the Person program.

### NUMBER OF COPIES

At least one copy shall be completed when necessary.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETION

Name: Enter the respondent's name.

Age: Enter the respondent's age.

Date of Examination: Enter the date when exam is completed.

Is Participant (respondent) Alert: Instead of only answering "yes" or "no", indicate the level of alertness. Alert indicates that the individual is fully awake and able to focus. Other descriptors include, but are not limited to: drowsy, confused, distractible, inattentive, and preoccupied.

Level of Education: Enter the respondent's last completed grade level. If the respondent has completed college, indicate the degree obtained.

### QUESTIONS

Allow the respondent enough time to answer all questions. As space allows, note the answer given next to the question. The bold number in parentheses indicates the value of each question.

1-3. Self-explanatory.

4. Ask the respondent to repeat each of the five objects to make sure the respondent heard and understood what was said.
5. Obtain the answer to the first part of the question before moving on to part two. Do not prompt or give hints but do give ample time to answer. The answer to part one is \$23. The answer to part two is \$77.
6. Using a second hand on a watch or clock, ask the respondent to name as many animals as possible in one minute.
7. Self-explanatory.
8. State each number by its individual name. 87 is pronounced eight, seven; 649 is pronounced six, four, nine; 8537 is pronounced eight, five, three, seven.
9. Use the [larger clock face](#) of the SLUMS exam as necessary to assist those with visual impairments. When scoring, give full credit for either all 12 numbers or all 12 ticks. If the respondent puts only 4 ticks on the circle, prompt them once to put numbers next to those ticks (12, 3, 6, and 9) for full credit. When scoring the correct time, make sure the hour hand is shorter than the minute hand, and that the minute hand points at the 10 and the hour hand points at the 11.

**NOTE:** The time on this clock should be 10 minutes to eleven.

10. Self-explanatory
11. Read question #11 as written; provide ample time to answer each question. Do not give hints. The answer of Chicago as the state gets no credit but the assessor may prompt the respondent once by repeating the question. The answers from left to right are Jill, a stockbroker, when her children were teenagers, and Illinois.

#### SCORING

Place the respondent's score on each question in the column to the left of the question and total down.

High School Education		Less than High School Education
27-30	Normal	25-30
21-26	MNCD*	20-24
1-20	Dementia	1-19
*Mild Neurocognitive Disorder		

#### DISTRIBUTION

The SLUMS form shall be scanned into the respondent's electronic case record.