



Nursing Facility Level of Care (LOC)

Determination Guide

This document serves as a summary of the DRAFT LOC Algorithm Version (V) 2.3 which determines a participant’s Nursing Facility Level of Care (LOC). The DRAFT LOC Algorithm V2.3 should be used to determine a participant’s LOC. However, this guide serves as a blueprint for stakeholders and participants to understand proposed LOC updates.

Behavioral

- Determine if the participant:
 - Receives monitoring for a mental condition
 - Exhibits one of the following mood or behavior symptoms – wandering, physical abuse, socially inappropriate or disruptive behavior, inappropriate public sexual behavior or public disrobing; resists care
 - Exhibits one of the following psychiatric conditions –abnormal thoughts, delusions, hallucinations

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
Stable mental condition AND No mood or behavior symptoms observed AND No reported psychiatric conditions	Stable mental condition monitored by a physician or licensed mental health professional at least monthly OR Behavior symptoms exhibited in past, but not currently present OR Psychiatric conditions exhibited in past, but not recently present	Unstable mental condition monitored by a physician or licensed mental health professional at least monthly OR Behavior symptoms are currently exhibited OR Psychiatric conditions are recently exhibited	Unstable mental condition monitored by a physician or licensed mental health professional at least monthly AND Behavior symptoms are currently exhibited OR Psychiatric conditions are currently exhibited	N/A

Cognition

- Determine if the participant has an issue in one or more of the following areas:
 - Cognitive skills for daily decision making
 - Memory or recall ability (short-term, procedural, situational memory)
 - Disorganized thinking/awareness – mental function varies over the course of the day
 - Ability to understand others or to be understood

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
<p>No issues with cognition OR No issues with memory, mental function, or ability to be understood/understand others</p>	<p>Displays difficulty making decisions in new situations or occasionally requires supervision in decision making AND Has issues with memory, mental function, or ability to be understood/understand others</p>	<p>Displays consistent unsafe/poor decision making or requires total supervision AND Has issues with memory, mental function, or ability to be understood/understand others</p>	<p>Rarely or never has the capability to make decisions OR Displays consistent unsafe/poor decision making or requires total supervision AND rarely or never understood/able to understand others</p>	<p>TRIGGER: Comatose state</p>

Mobility

- Determine the participant’s primary mode of locomotion
- Determine the amount of assistance the participant needs with:
 - Locomotion – how moves walking or wheeling, if wheeling how much assistance is needed once in the chair
 - Bed Mobility – transition from lying to sitting, turning, etc.

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
No assistance needed OR Only set up or supervision need	Limited or moderate assistance needed, i.e. participant performs more than 50% of task independently	Maximum assistance needed for locomotion or bed mobility, i.e. participant needs 2 or more helpers or more than 50% of caregiver weight-bearing assistance OR Total dependence for bed mobility	N/A	TRIGGER: Participant is bedbound OR Total dependence on others for locomotion

Eating

- Determine the amount of assistance the participant needs with eating and drinking. Includes intake of nourishment by other means (e.g. tube feeding or TPN).
- Determine if the participant requires a physician ordered therapeutic diet

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
No assistance needed AND No physician ordered diet	Physician ordered therapeutic diet OR Set up, supervision, or limited assistance needed with eating	Moderate assistance needed with eating, i.e. participant performs more than 50% of the task independently	Maximum assistance needed with eating, i.e. participant requires caregiver to perform more than 50% for assistance	TRIGGER: Total dependence on others

Toileting

- Determine the amount of assistance the participant needs with toileting. Toileting includes: using the toilet (bedpan, urinal, commode), changing incontinent episodes, managing catheters/ostomies, and adjusting clothing.
- Determine the amount of assistance the participant needs with transferring on/off the toilet

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
No assistance needed OR Only set up or supervision needed	Limited or moderate assistance needed, i.e. participant performs more than 50% of task independently	Maximum assistance needed, i.e. participant needs 2 or more helpers or more than 50% of caregiver weight-bearing assistance	Total dependence on others	N/A

Bathing

- Determine the amount of assistance the participant needs with bathing. Bathing includes: taking a full body bath/shower and the transferring in and out of the bath/shower.

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
No assistance needed OR Only set up or supervision needed	Limited or moderate assistance needed, i.e. participant performs more than 50% of task independently	Maximum assistance, i.e. participant needs 2 or more helpers or more than 50% of caregiver weight-bearing assistance OR Total dependence on others	N/A	N/A

Dressing & Grooming

- Determine the amount of assistance the participant needs with:
 - Personal Hygiene
 - Dressing Upper Body
 - Dressing Lower Body

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
No assistance needed OR Only set up or supervision needed	Limited or moderate assistance needed, i.e. participant performs more than 50% of task independently	Maximum assistance, i.e. participant needs 2 or more helpers or more than 50% of caregiver weight-bearing assistance OR Total dependence on others	N/A	N/A

Rehabilitation

- Determine if the participant has the following medically ordered therapeutic services:
 - Physical therapy
 - Occupational therapy
 - Speech-language pathology and audiology services
 - Cardiac rehabilitation

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
None of the above therapies ordered	Any of the above therapies ordered, 1 time per week	Any of the above therapies ordered 2-3 times per week	Any of the above therapies ordered 4 or more times per week	N/A

Treatments

- Determine if the participant requires any of the following treatments:
 - Catheter/Ostomy care
 - Alternate modes of nutrition (tube feeding, TPN)
 - Suctioning
 - Ventilator/respirator
 - Wound care (skin must be broken)

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
None of the above treatments needed	N/A	One or more of the above treatments are needed	N/A	N/A

Meal Prep

- Determine the amount of assistance the participant needs to prepare a meal. This includes planning, assembling ingredients, cooking, and setting out the food and utensils.

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
No assistance needed OR Only set up or supervision needed	Limited or moderate assistance needed, i.e. participant performs more than 50% of task	Maximum assistance, i.e. caregiver performs more than 50% of task OR Total dependence on others	N/A	N/A

Medication Management

- Determine the amount of assistance the participant needs to safely manage their medications. Assistance may be needed due to a physical or mental disability.

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
No assistance needed	Setup help needed OR Supervision needed OR Limited or moderate assistance needed, i.e. participant performs more than 50% of task	Maximum assistance needed, i.e. caregiver performs more than 50% of task OR Total dependence on others	N/A	N/A

Safety

- Determine if the individual exhibits any of the following risk factors:
 - Vision Impairment
 - Falling
 - Balance – moving to standing position, turning to face the opposite direction, dizziness, or unsteady gait
- After determination of preliminary score, history of institutionalization in the last 5 years and age will be considered to determine final score
 - Institutionalization – long term care facility, RCF/ALF, mental health residence, psychiatric hospital, inpatient substance abuse, settings for persons with intellectual disabilities,
 - Age – 75 years and over

0 points	3 points	6 points	9 points	18 points
No difficulty or some difficulty with vision AND No falls in last 90 days AND No recent problems with balance	Severe difficulty with vision (sees only lights and shapes) OR Has fallen in last 90 days OR Has current problems with balance OR	No vision OR Has fallen in last 90 days AND Has current problems with balance OR Preliminary score of 0 AND Age AND Institutionalization OR Preliminary score of 3 AND Age or Institutionalization	Preliminary score of 6 AND Institutionalization	TRIGGER Preliminary score of 6 AND Age OR Preliminary score of 3 AND Age And Institutionalization