



# Differences Between RUG-III 44-Group and 34-Group Methodologies

**Grouping methodology:** Resource Utilization Group, version III (RUG-III) is a grouping methodology used to categorize assessment data in the Continuing Care Reporting System (CCRS) at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Assessments are categorized into specific groups based on statistical, clinical and resource utilization similarities within those groups. RUG-III can be used to better understand the characteristics of resident populations and to support planning, quality improvement and resource allocation.

**Structure:** The RUG-III methodology includes 7 RUG categories. The categories are ordered in a clinical hierarchy based on resource intensity and are prioritized from the most to the least resource intensive. Within each of the RUG categories, there are a number of more precisely defined RUG groups (see below).

**Versions:** There are 2 versions of the RUG-III methodology: the 44-group one is used with all Canadian assessment data submitted to CCRS, while the 34-group one is used only within Ontario's long-term care facilities. The differences between these 2 grouping methodologies are largely related to the Special Rehabilitation category and are summarized below.

| RUG-III 44-group                       | RUG-III 34-group                       |
|--|--|
| Special Rehabilitation   14 groups     | Extensive Services   3 groups          |
| Extensive Services   3 groups          | Special Rehabilitation   4 groups      |
| Special Care   3 groups                | Special Care   3 groups                |
| Clinically Complex   6 groups          | Clinically Complex   6 groups          |
| Impaired Cognition   4 groups          | Impaired Cognition   4 groups          |
| Behaviour Problems   4 groups          | Behaviour Problems   4 groups          |
| Reduced Physical Functions   10 groups | Reduced Physical Functions   10 groups |

| Characteristic  | RUG-III 44-group methodology  | RUG-III 34-group methodology   |
|---|---|--|
| <b>Application</b>  | Canada wide   | Ontario's long-term care facilities  |
| <b>Rank order of categories (from highest to lowest resource intensity)</b> | 7 RUG categories:<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Special Rehabilitation</b></li> <li>2. Extensive Services</li> <li>3. Special Care</li> <li>4. Clinically Complex</li> <li>5. Impaired Cognition</li> <li>6. Behaviour Problems</li> <li>7. Reduced Physical Functions</li> </ol>   | Same 7 RUG categories: *<br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Extensive Services</li> <li>2. <b>Special Rehabilitation</b></li> <li>3. Special Care</li> <li>4. Clinically Complex</li> <li>5. Impaired Cognition</li> <li>6. Behaviour Problems</li> <li>7. Reduced Physical Functions</li> </ol> |
| <b>Number of RUG-III groups</b>   | 44 RUG groups   | 34 RUG groups  |
| <b>Special Rehabilitation category: Groups and subcategories</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 groups</li> <li>• 5 subcategories, ranging from ultra high to low</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 groups</li> <li>• No subcategories</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Special Rehabilitation category/group qualifiers</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment can qualify for up to 5 groups in the Special Rehabilitation category — 1 for each of the 5 subcategories</li> <li>• RUG-III group assignment is based on                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– RUG-III-ADL score</li> <li>– Physical therapy</li> <li>– Occupational therapy</li> <li>– Speech therapy</li> <li>– Nursing rehabilitation/restorative care</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An assessment can qualify for only 1 group in the entire Special Rehabilitation category</li> <li>• RUG-III group assignment is based on                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– RUG-III-ADL score</li> </ul> </li> </ul>            |

**Note**

\* Categories 1 and 2 are reversed compared with the RUG-III 44-group version.

**Use of RUG-III:** RUG Weighted Patient Day (RWPD) reports are produced quarterly by CIHI to summarize clinical and resource characteristics of individuals and facilities. A variety of audiences can use RWPD reports, including financial and decision-support analysts, Resident Assessment Instrument (RAI) coordinators, facility administrators and management teams in health regions and ministries of health.



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