



interRAI CA (IRRS): Using the Assessment Urgency Algorithm as a Decision-Support Tool

What is the Assessment Urgency Algorithm?

The Assessment Urgency Algorithm is used to prioritize the need and urgency for a comprehensive follow-up assessment (e.g., interRAI Home Care).

How does it work?

Assessment Urgency Algorithm scores range from 1 to 6. Higher scores indicate a more urgent need for a follow-up assessment.

What are the criteria used to calculate the Assessment Urgency Algorithm score?

There are 6 assessment items used in the calculation of the Assessment Urgency Algorithm, plus the Self-Reliance Index score:

- ADL Self-Performance: Personal hygiene (C2c)
- Dyspnea (C3)
- Self-Reported Health (C4)
- Self-Reported Mood: Sad, depressed or hopeless (C5c)
- Conditions/diseases make cognitive, ADL, mood or behaviour patterns unstable (C6a)
- Family or close friends report feeling overwhelmed by person's illness (D19b)
- Self-Reliance Index

What are the benefits?

Clinical

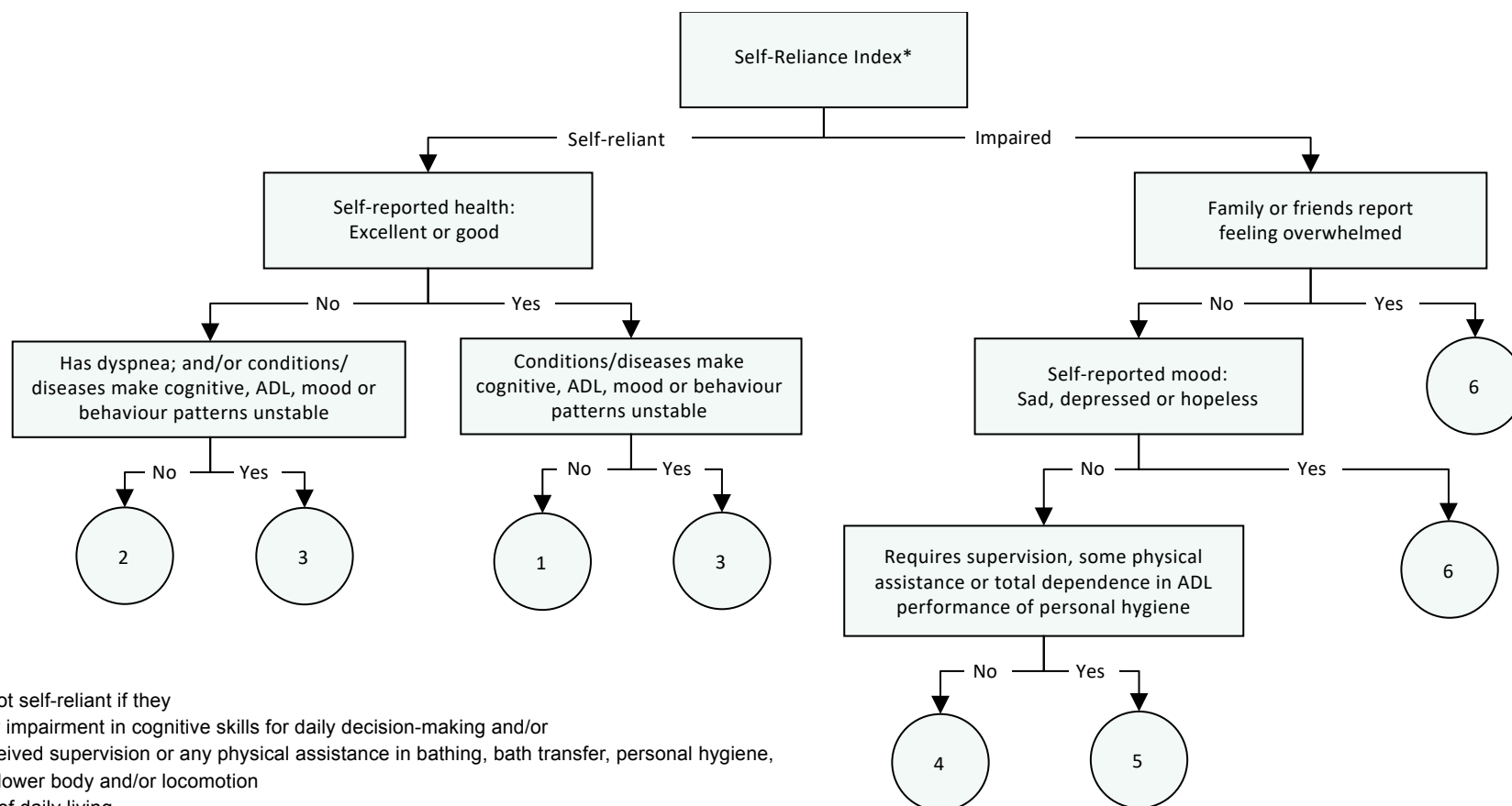
- It has been shown to be a predictor of hospital admissions and delayed discharge among persons admitted to acute hospitals from emergency departments.

Organizational

- Promotes consistent decisions among home care staff.



Decision tree



Notes

* Person is not self-reliant if they

- Have any impairment in cognitive skills for daily decision-making and/or
- Have received supervision or any physical assistance in bathing, bath transfer, personal hygiene, dressing lower body and/or locomotion

ADL: Activity of daily living.

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How to cite this document:

Canadian Institute for Health Information. *interRAI CA (IRRS): Using the Assessment Urgency Algorithm as a Decision-Support Tool* [job aid]. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2022.



Appendix

Text alternative for image

The decision process to assign an Assessment Urgency Algorithm score is as follows: The first step of this process is based on the outcome of the Self-Reliance Index — either self-reliant or impaired. A person is impaired (not self-reliant) if they have any impairment in cognitive skills for daily decision-making or have received supervision or any physical assistance in bathing, bath transfer, personal hygiene, dressing lower body and/or locomotion. If the person is self-reliant and reports their health as excellent or good, and conditions and/or diseases do not make cognitive, activity of daily living (ADL), mood or behaviour patterns unstable, the Assessment Urgency Algorithm score is 1; if conditions and/or diseases do make cognitive, ADL, mood or behaviour patterns unstable, the score is 3. If the person is self-reliant and does not report their health as excellent or good and has no dyspnea and/or conditions/diseases do not make cognitive, ADL, mood or behaviour patterns unstable, the Assessment Urgency Algorithm score is 2; if the person has dyspnea and/or conditions/diseases do make cognitive, ADL, mood or behaviour patterns unstable, the score is 3. If the person is not self-reliant and family or friends report feeling overwhelmed, the Assessment Urgency Algorithm score is 6. If the person is not self-reliant and family or friends do not report feeling overwhelmed but the person reports their mood as sad, depressed or hopeless, the Assessment Urgency Algorithm score is 6. If person is not self-reliant and family or friends do not report feeling overwhelmed and the person does not report their mood as sad, depressed or hopeless but they require supervision, some physical assistance or total dependence in ADL performance of personal hygiene, the Assessment Urgency Algorithm score is 5; if they do not require supervision, some physical assistance or total dependence in ADL performance of personal hygiene, the Assessment Urgency Algorithm score is 4.