

Using the interRAI HC Method for Assigning Priority Levels (MAPLe) as a Decision-Support Tool



What is MAPLe?

MAPLe is a decision-support tool that can be used to prioritize those needing community- or facility-based services and to help plan allocation of resources.

It is a powerful predictor of admission to residential care and may indicate caregiver distress.

How does it work?

MAPLe assigns 1 of 5 priority levels to each home care person based on information from the interRAI HC assessment. The level assigned is determined by considering a broad range of criteria. Clients may fall into a given priority level via a number of pathways that represent different combinations of these criteria/risk factors.

The pathways to each MAPLe level are illustrated by the decision tree on the following page.

What are the criteria used to calculate MAPLe levels?

- Change in decision-making (C5)
- Behaviour (E3) (wandering, verbal abuse, physical abuse, socially inappropriate, inappropriate sexual behaviour and/or resists care)
- Meal preparation — capacity (G1aC)
- Managing medications — capacity (G1dC)
- Falls (last 90 days) (J1a and J1b)
- Ate one or fewer meals (K2f)
- Mode of nutritional intake (K3)
- Most severe pressure ulcer (L1)
- Home environment (Q1) (disrepair, squalid, heating/cooling, personal safety and/or access to home/rooms)
- ADL Self-Performance Hierarchy Scale
- Cognitive Performance Scale
- Institutional Risk CAP
- Geriatric Screener

Geriatric Screener

- Cognitive skills for daily decision-making (C1)
- Meal preparation — capacity (G1aC)
- Ordinary housework — capacity (G1bC)
- Transportation — capacity (G1hC)
- Personal hygiene (G2b)
- Bathing (G2a)
- Hours of physical activity (G4a)

What are the benefits?

Clinical

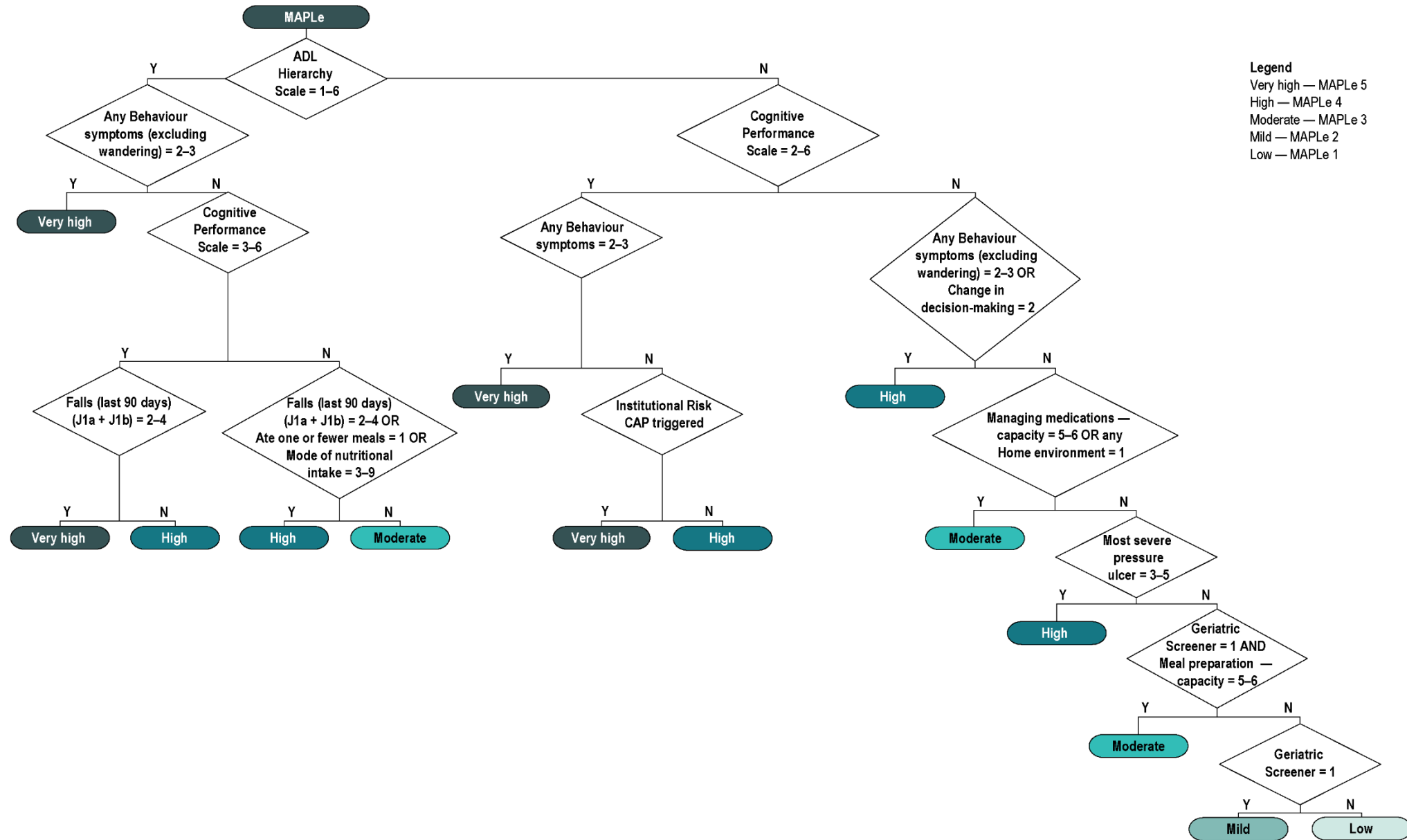
- Assists the person, caregivers and staff to plan care that best meets the needs of the person
- Identifies those who may be at risk of admission to hospital or long-term care
- Supports monitoring of person outcomes
- Guides planning of reassessment frequency

Organizational

- Promotes consistent decisions among home care staff through standardized information on the person's needs
- Supports evidence-informed resource allocation
- Enables benchmarking by allowing comparisons of similar populations
- Provides a comparable profile of populations across jurisdictions



MAPLe decision tree



Legend
 Very high — MAPLe 5
 High — MAPLe 4
 Moderate — MAPLe 3
 Mild — MAPLe 2
 Low — MAPLe 1

Source

Adapted from Hirdes JP, Poss JW, Curtin-Telegdi N. The Method for Assigning Priority Levels (MAPLe): A new decision-support system for allocating home care resources. *BMC Medicine*. 2008.