

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



## What is the MAPLe?

MAPLe is a decision-support tool that can be used to prioritize clients 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?

The MAPLe assigns one of five priority levels to each home care client based on information from the RAI-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 reverse.

## What are the benefits?

### Clinical

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

### Organizational

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

## What are the criteria used to calculate MAPLe levels?

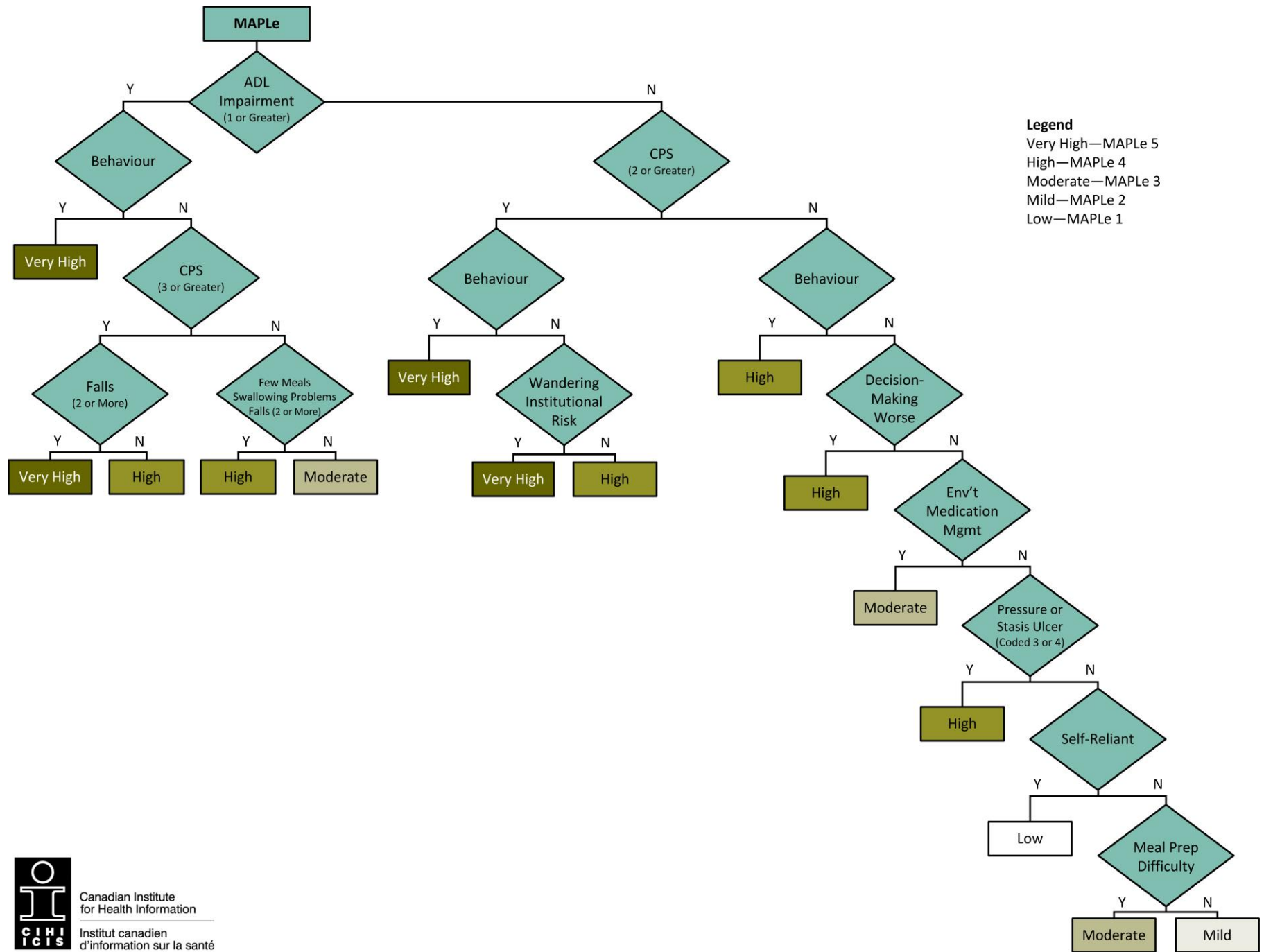
- Worsening of decision-making [B2b]
- Behaviour: [E3] (wandering, verbally abusive, physically abusive, socially inappropriate and/or resists care)
- Meal preparation difficulty [H1aB]
- Medication management difficulty [H1dB]
- Falls [K5]
- One or fewer meals a day [L2a]
- Swallowing [L3]
- Pressure or stasis ulcers [N2]
- Environment: [O1] (bathroom, kitchen, heating/cooling, personal safety and/or access to home)
- Number of medications (Q1)
- ADL Self-Performance Hierarchy Scale
- Cognitive Performance Scale
- Institutional Risk CAP
- Geriatric Screener

### Geriatric Screener

- Cognitive skills for daily decision-making [B2a]
- Meal preparation difficulty [H1aB]
- Ordinary housework difficulty [H1bB]
- Transportation difficulty [H1gB]
- Personal hygiene [H2i]
- Bathing [H2j]
- Stamina H6b]

Source: J. P. Hirdes, J. W. Poss and N. Curtin-Telegdi, "The Method for Assigning Priority Levels (MAPLe): A New Decision-Support System for Allocating Home Care Resources," *BMC Medicine* 6, 9 (2008), [online], from <<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7015/6/9>>.

# MAPLe Decision Tree



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