

MDS Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS)

Overview: The Minimum Data Set (MDS) Cognitive Performance Scale (CPS) can be used to evaluate the level of cognitive impairment affecting a patient in a nursing home. This can help management planning for the patient.

NOTE: The scale is copyright by the authors.

Parameters:

- (1) comatose
- (2) problem with short-term memory
- (3) cognitive skills for daily decision making
- (4) being understood by others
- (5) activities of daily living (ADL) self-performance in eating

Scoring:

- (1) Coma and short term memory are scored 0 or 1 for no or yes.
- (2) Decision making and communication are scored using a Likert scale ranging from 0 to 3 (from not a problem to a severe problem)
- (3) Eating is scored using a Likert scale ranging from 0 to 4 (from independent to totally dependent)

where:

- Coma indicates persistent vegetative state or no discernible consciousness.
- Short-term memory is considered intact if the person is able to recall something learned after 5 minutes.

Impairment Items	Points
Decision making points 1 or 2	1
Can be understood points 1 2 or 3	1
Short-term memory points 1	1

impairment count = SUM(points for impairment items)

Severe Impairment Items	Points
Decision making points = 2	1
Can be understood points = 2 or 3	1

severe impairment count = SUM(points for impairment items)

Coma vs Noncoma	Decision Making	Eating	Impair-ment Count	Severe Impair-ment	Class
comatose	NA	NA	NA	NA	very severe impairment
non-comatose	3	4	NA	NA	very severe impairment
non-comatose	3	0 to 3	NA	NA	severe impairment
non-comatose	0 to 2	NA	2 or 3	2	moderately severe impairment
non-comatose	0 to 2	NA	2 or 3	1	moderate impairment
non-comatose	0 to 2	NA	2 or 3	0	mild impairment
non-comatose	0 to 2	NA	1	0	borderline intact
non-comatose	0 to 2	NA	0	0	intact

References:

Morris JN Fries BE et al. MDS Cognitive Performance Scale. J Gerontology. 1994; 49: M174-M182 (Figure 1 page M178; Appendix page M182).