

Table 15 – Functions of Consciousness

Introduction to Table 15

- Table 15 is to be used to assess the functional impact of a diagnosed condition due to involuntary loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness, such as epilepsy, some forms of migraine, transient ischaemic attacks, or brain tumours.
- The diagnosis of the condition causing the impairment must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person's impairment.
- Self-report of symptoms must be supported by corroborating medical evidence.

Examples of corroborating evidence for the purposes of this Table include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a report from the person's treating doctor;
- a report from a medical specialist (such as neurologist, endocrinologist or physician) confirming diagnosis of conditions associated with episodes of loss of or altered state of consciousness (such as epilepsy, transient ischaemic attacks, some forms of migraine, brain tumours, narcolepsy, or cardiac or other forms of syncope);
- Assessments or reports from practitioners specialising in the treatment and management of these conditions (such as neurologists, endocrinologists, or registered nurses).
- When determining whether a descriptor applies that involves a person performing an activity, the descriptor applies if that person can do the activity when they would be expected to do so and not only once or rarely.
- When assessing episodic or fluctuating impairments and conditions, a rating must be assigned which reflects the overall functional impact of those impairments, taking into account the severity, duration and frequency of the episodes or fluctuations as appropriate.
- The examples used in descriptors are not an exhaustive list and are to be used only as a guide.

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is no functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The person does not experience loss of consciousness or an altered state of consciousness when occupied with a task or activity.
5	<p><i>There is a mild functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The person: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) has infrequent episodes of involuntary loss of consciousness or episodes of altered state of consciousness, which: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. occur no more than twice per year; and ii. do not usually require hospitalisation; and b) is able to perform most of their usual activities of daily living between episodes; and may have restrictions on a driver's licence due to the medical condition.
10	<p><i>There is a moderate functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The person: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) has episodes of involuntary loss of consciousness: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. which occur more than twice each year but not every month; and b. which may require the person to receive first aid measures and occasionally emergency medication or hospitalisation; or (ii) has episodes of involuntary altered state of consciousness: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. which occur at least once per month; and b. during which the person's functional abilities are affected, such as they remain standing or sitting but is unaware of their surroundings or actions during the episode; and b) is able to perform many of their usual activities of daily living between episodes; and c) is unlikely to be granted a driver's licence and may have other safety-related restrictions on activities; and d) is not able to attend work, education or training activities on a fulltime basis and is restricted due to safety issues in the work-related activities that they can undertake.
20	<p><i>There is a severe functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The person: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) either: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (i) has episodes of involuntary loss of consciousness;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. which occur at least once each month; and b. which may require the person to receive first aid measures and may require emergency medication or hospitalisation; or (ii) has episodes of altered state of consciousness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. which occur at least once per week; and b. during which the person's functional abilities are affected during these episodes, such as they remain standing or sitting but is unaware of their surroundings or actions during the episode; and b) has severe difficulty performing many of their usual activities of daily living between episodes; and c) cannot obtain a driver's licence or has significant restrictions on medical grounds and has other safety-related restrictions on activities; and d) has severe difficulty attending work, education or training activities, for at least 15 hours per week.
30	<p><i>There is an extreme functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) has frequent episodes of involuntary loss of consciousness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. which occur at least once each week; and b. which may require the person to receive first aid measures emergency medication or hospitalisation; or (ii) has frequent episodes of altered state of consciousness: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. which occur most days; and b. during which the person's functional abilities are affected during these episodes, such as they remain standing or sitting but is unaware of their surroundings or actions during the episode; and (a) is unable to perform most of their usual activities of daily living between episodes; and (b) cannot obtain a driver's licence on medical grounds and has other safety-related restrictions on activities; and is not able to attend work, education or training activities at all.