

Table 3 - Lower Limb Function

Introduction to Table 3

Table 3 is to be used to assess the functional impact of a diagnosed condition when performing activities requiring the use of lower limbs.

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 confirming diagnosis of conditions associated with lower limb impairment (such as arthritis or other condition affecting lower limb joints, paralysis or loss of strength or sensation resulting from stroke or other brain or nerve injury, cerebral palsy or other condition affecting lower limb coordination, inflammation or injury of the muscles or tendons of the lower limbs, chronic pain affecting the lower limbs, amputation or absence of whole or part of lower limb, lymphoedema, or peripheral neuropathy);
- a report from an allied health practitioner (such as physiotherapist, occupational therapist or exercise physiologist) confirming the functional impairment;
- results of diagnostic tests (such as X-Rays or other imagery);
- results of physical tests or assessments showing impaired function of the lower limbs.

For the purposes of this Table lower limbs extend from the hips to the toes.

The functional impact on lower limbs resulting from lumbar spine conditions, such as nerve pain or weakness in the lower limbs, is to be assessed under Table 3.

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 (such as chronic pain), 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.

Assistance means assistance from another person rather than any aids or equipment the person may use, unless specified otherwise.

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is no or minimal functional impact on activities requiring use of the lower limbs.</i></p> <p>(1) The person has no or minimal difficulty performing activities involving standing, squatting or kneeling and rising to a standing position, negotiating stairs and walking around their home and in the community.</p>
5	<p><i>There is a mild functional impact on activities using lower limbs.</i></p> <p>(1) At least one of the following applies:</p> <p>(a) the person has mild difficulty walking on slopes or uneven ground; or</p> <p><i>Example: walking to local facilities such as local shops, workplaces, a supermarket, or bus-stop where there is uneven terrain.</i></p> <p>(b) the person has mild difficulty walking on level ground without stopping; or</p> <p><i>Example: walking around local facilities such as local shops or a supermarket without stopping.</i></p> <p>(c) the person has mild difficulty negotiating stairs; and</p> <p><i>Example: is likely to require the use of a structural support, such as a hand rail to negotiate a flight of stairs.</i></p> <p>(2) At least one of the following applies:</p> <p>(a) the person has mild difficulty standing independently; or</p> <p><i>Example: waiting in a slow moving queue or standing still.</i></p> <p>(b) the person has mild difficulty squatting or kneeling, but does not require support to stand up again; or</p> <p><i>Example: kneeling to tie a shoe and does not require support to stand again.</i></p> <p>(c) the person can mobilise effectively but needs to use a walking aid to assist with walking or balance issues.</p> <p><i>Example: tripping due to neurological conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis, or cerebellar function.</i></p>

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There is a **moderate** functional impact on activities using lower limbs.

(1) At least one of the following applies:

- (a) the person has moderate difficulty walking on slopes or uneven ground;
or

Example: the person has moderate difficulty walking far outside their home on uneven ground and needs to drive or get other transport to local facilities such as a local shop, workplace or supermarket.

the person has moderate difficulty using stairs or steps without assistance or without using alternate methods; or

Example: the person may navigate stairs one at a time, sideways or require breaks, or navigates stairs with reliance on other structural support such as a hand rail to maintain balance.

- (c) the person has moderate difficulty standing for short periods of time; or

Example: the person has moderate difficulty standing in a queue at a supermarket check-out.

- (d) the person has moderate difficulty kneeling or squatting and requires support of a stable object to stand again;
and

Example: the person supports themselves using a coffee table to stand from a kneeling or squatting position.

(2) The person is able to use public transport or a motor vehicle and walk on level ground.

Example: is able to catch a bus and walk around in a workplace, shopping centre or supermarket.

Note 1: this impairment rating level includes a person who can:

- (a) move around independently using a wheelchair and can independently transfer to and from a wheelchair; or

Example: the person can use a wheelchair accessible toilet independently.

- (b) move around independently using walking aids such as a quad stick, crutches or walking frame.

Note 2: the person may require additional time and effort to move around a workplace, may need to use accessible entries, lifts and toilets, and may not be able to access some areas of a workplace or training facility.

20	<p><i>There is a severe functional impact on activities using lower limbs.</i></p> <p>(1) The person:</p> <p>(a) has severe difficulty undertaking any of the following without assistance:</p> <p>(i) standing up from a sitting position in a standard chair; <i>Example: the person has severe difficulty standing after being seated in a dining chair.</i></p> <p>(ii) remaining standing independently;</p> <p>(iii) walking around their home and in the community; and</p> <p><i>Example: the person has severe difficulty walking from the carpark into local facilities and walking around local facilities such as shop or supermarket without assistance.</i></p> <p>(b) Requires assistance to use public transport.</p> <p><i>Note: this impairment rating level includes a person who requires assistance to:</i></p> <p>(a) move around in, or transfer to and from a wheelchair; or</p> <p><i>Example: the person needs personal care assistance to use a toilet.</i></p> <p>(b) move around using walking aids such as a quad stick, crutches or walking frame such as the person requires assistance from another person to walk on some surfaces and could not move independently around a workplace or training facility, even when using a walking aid.</p> <p><i>Example: the person is at significant risk of, or has frequent falls due to balance or other issues.</i></p>
30	<p><i>There is an extreme functional impact on activities using lower limbs.</i></p> <p>(1) The person is unable to mobilise independently</p>