



## Nursing Facility Level of Care Criteria Guide

An in-person assessment is required by a lead agency to determine institutional level of care (LOC) for people who seek home and community-based services. Lead agencies use MnCHOICES to determine institutional level of care (including nursing facility [NF LOC]). But, when helpful, lead agencies also may use this guide with the legacy assessment tool, [Minnesota Long-Term Care Consultation Services Assessment Form, DHS-3428 \(PDF\)](#) and related materials.

NOTE: Use this document as an informational guide only.

### Criteria

For nursing facility (NF) level of care, a person **must meet one of the following five categories of need:**

1. [Criteria related to cognitive or behavioral needs](#)
2. [Activities of daily living \(ADLs\)](#)
3. [Critical activities of daily living \(ADLs\)](#)
4. [Clinical monitoring](#)
5. [Living arrangement and risk.](#)

### Criteria related to cognitive or behavioral needs

Assessment item	NF LOC based on at least one
Self-preservation	Score 02 or greater = Y
or	
Orientation	Score 02 or greater = Y
or	
Mental Status Evaluation (MSE): Katzman or Mini-cog	Katzman Score between 10 and 28 or Mini-cog score of 03, 04 or 05 = Y
or	
Behavioral need	Score 01 or greater = Y

**OR, go to “Activities of daily living (ADLs)” section**

## Activities of daily living (ADLs)

The following chart depicts qualifying thresholds for dependency scores for NF LOC. A person can meet NF LOC by either meeting four of the eight ADLs listed or by having one critical ADL.

Assessment Item	NF LOC based on 4 or more ADL dependencies	NF LOC based on at least one critical activity of daily living
Dressing	Score 02 or greater = Y	N/A
Grooming	Score 02 or greater = Y	N/A
Bathing	Score 04* or greater = Y	N/A
Eating	Score 02 or greater = Y	N/A
Walking	Score 02 or greater = Y	N/A
Bed Mobility (positioning)	Score 02 or greater = Y	Score 02 or greater
Transferring	Score 02 or greater = Y	Score 02 or greater
Toileting	Score 01 or greater = Y	Person needs constant supervision or the assistance of another to complete toileting = true (Y)

\*Score 03 or greater when 17 years or younger = Y

**OR go to the “Clinical monitoring” section**

## Clinical monitoring

Assessment item	NF LOC based on clinical monitoring
Clinical monitoring at least once every 24 hours	Score 01 or greater = Y

**OR go to “Living arrangement and risk” section**

## Living arrangement and risk

The person’s planned living arrangement (field 28) must be one of the following:

- Lives alone (01)
- Homeless (05)
- Would live alone/be homeless without planned housing or planned living arrangement (can include congregate settings) (06).
- The person would live alone or be homeless without continuing in his/ her planned living arrangement regardless of housing type/setting (06).

**AND** meets one of the following risk criteria:

Assessment risk criterion	NF LOC based on at least one risk factor (when combined with planned living arrangement)
Falls with a fracture in the past 12 months	Score 03 = Y
or	
Vision: difficulty seeing environmental obstacles	Score 02 or 03 = Y
or	
Hearing: hears only very loud sounds	Score 02 or 03 = Y
or	
Person is at risk of self-neglect	True = Y
or	
Person is at risk of exploitation	True = Y

**If the person does not meet the designated criteria in at least one of the five categories above, the person does not meet NF LOC.**

## Additional information

- [CBSM — Assessment and support planning page](#)
- [CBSM — Level of care page](#)
- [CBSM — MnCHOICES policy page](#)
- [Senior LinkAge Line's MinnesotaHelp Network online referral page](#)

Use the following LTSS forms for reference:

- [Minnesota Long-Term Care Consultation Services Assessment Form, DHS 3428 \(PDF\)](#)
- [AC, BI, CADI, EW Case Mix Classification Worksheet, DHS 3428B \(PDF\)](#)
- [MN Long-Term Care Consultation Services: Supplemental Form for Assessment of Children Under 18, DHS 3428C \(PDF\)](#)