

Barthel Index - modified

Purpose : Assessment of functional independence in the domains of personal care and mobility

Admin time : 5-20 min.

User Friendly : High

Administered by : GP or nurse

Content : The Barthel includes 10 personal activities: feeding, personal toileting, bathing, dressing and undressing, getting on and off a toilet, controlling bladder, controlling bowel, moving from wheelchair to bed and returning, walking on level surface (or propelling a wheelchair if unable to walk) and ascending and descending stairs.

Each item is rated in terms of whether the patient can perform the task independently, with some assistance, or is dependent on help based on observation (0=unable, 1=needs help, 2=independent).

Author : Colin et al, 1988

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<https://www.cgakit.com/f-1-barthel-index>

Barthel Index - modified

Name

Date

Assessed by

Total Score

Bowels

- 0 = incontinent (or needs to be given enemata)
- 1 = occasional accident (once/week)
- 2 = continent

Patient's Score: _____

Bladder

- 0 = incontinent, or catheterized and unable to manage
- 1 = occasional accident (max. once per 24 hours)
- 2 = continent (for over 7 days)

Patient's Score: _____

Grooming

- 0 = needs help with personal care
- 1 = independent face/hair/teeth/shaving (implements provided)

Patient's Score: _____

Toilet use

- 0 = dependent
- 1 = needs some help, but can do something alone
- 2 = independent (on and off, dressing, wiping)

Patient's Score: _____

Feeding

- 0 = unable
- 1 = needs help cutting, spreading butter, etc.
- 2 = independent (food provided within reach)

Patient's Score: _____

Transfer

- 0 = unable – no sitting balance
- 1 = major help (one or two people, physical), can sit
- 2 = minor help (verbal or physical)
- 3 = independent

Patient's Score: _____

Mobility

- 0 = immobile
- 1 = wheelchair independent, including corners, etc.
- 2 = walks with help of one person (verbal or physical)
- 3 = independent (but may use any aid, e.g., stick)

Patient's Score: _____

Dressing

- 0 = dependent
- 1 = needs help, but can do about half unaided
- 2 = independent (including buttons, zips, laces, etc.)

Patient's Score: _____

Stairs

- 0 = unable
- 1 = needs help (verbal, physical, carrying aid)
- 2 = independent up and down

Patient's Score: _____

Bathing

- 0 = dependent
- 1 = independent (or in shower)

Patient's Score: _____

Total Score: _____

Guidelines for the Barthel Index of Activities of Daily Living

General

- The Index should be used as a record of what a patient **does**, NOT as a record of what a patient **could do**.
- The main aim is to establish degree of independence from any help, physical or verbal, however minor and for whatever reason.
- The need for supervision renders the patient not independent.
- A patient's performance should be established using the best available evidence. Asking the patient, friends/relatives, and nurses will be the usual source, but direct observation and common sense are also important. However, direct testing is not needed.
- Usually the performance over the preceding 24 — 48 hours is important, but occasionally longer periods will be relevant.
- Unconscious patients should score '0' throughout, even if not yet incontinent.
- Middle categories imply that the patient supplies over 50% of the effort.
- Use of aids to be independent is allowed.

Bowels (preceding week)

- If needs enema from nurse, then 'incontinent.'
- 'Occasional' = once a week.

Bladder (preceding week)

- 'Occasional' = less than once a day.
- A catheterized patient who can completely manage the catheter alone is registered as 'continent.'

Grooming (preceding 24— 48 hours)

- Refers to personal hygiene: doing teeth, fitting false teeth, doing hair, shaving, washing face. Implements can be provided by helper.

Toilet Use

- Should be able to reach toilet/commode, undress sufficiently, clean self, dress, and leave.
- 'With help' = can wipe self and do some other of above.

Feeding

- Able to eat any normal food (not only soft food). Food cooked and served by others, but not cut up.
- 'Help' = food cut up, patient feeds self.

Transfer

- From bed to chair and back.
- 'Dependent' = NO sitting balance (unable to sit); two people to lift.
- 'Major help' = one strong/skilled, or two normal people. Can sit up.
- 'Minor help' = one person easily, OR needs any supervision for safety.

Mobility

- Refers to mobility about house or ward, indoors. May use aid. If in wheelchair, must negotiate corners/doors unaided.
- 'Help' = by one untrained person, including supervision/moral support.

Dressing

- Should be able to select and put on all clothes, which may be adapted.
- 'Half' = help with buttons, zips, etc. (*check!*), but can put on some garments alone.

Stairs

- Must carry any walking aid used to be independent.

Bathing

- Usually the most difficult activity.
- Must get in and out unsupervised, and wash self.
- Independent in shower = 'independent' if unsupervised/unaided.

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Scoring

Total possible scores range from 0 – 20.

In home setting

a score of 14 indicates some disability, usually compatible with the level of support found in the home.

In hospital or care home facility

a score of 10 is compatible with discharge home, provided there is maximum support and a caretaker in attendance.

If used to measure improvement after rehabilitation

changes of more than two points in the total score reflect a probable genuine change, and change on one item from fully dependent to independent is also likely to be reliable.