

Measuring Acuity: Acuity Scale

Level	Applies to Patient
1	Ready for discharge or transfer No longer meets criteria for hospitalization
2	Independent with ADLs Cooperative with program
3	Assessment/documentation/engagement requiring <20 minutes on a shift Assistance with ADLs/physical care <20 minutes on a shift Treatment Plan Meeting Phlebotomy Fingersticks for blood glucose 30-minute checks Transport by social worker
4	Refusing medication 15-minute checks Assessment/documentation/engagement requiring > 20 minutes on a shift Supervised visits and/or phone calls Behavioral plan in place Assistance with ADLs/physical care > 20 minutes on a shift Requiring frequent redirection
5	Manual restraint Mechanical restraint or seclusion < 15 minutes New admission during this 24 hour period Transport by nursing staff High-risk for falls (by Falls Risk) Non-emergency involuntary medication Frequent vital signs, neuro checks, etc.
6	Constant observation (during any part of the 24 hours) Transport by sheriffs or ambulance Mechanical restraint or seclusion > 15 minutes Emergency involuntary medication Medical emergency Need for staff response from other units

Example of measuring acuity in a hospital:

Currently, the hospitals measure acuity on paper every 8 hours / 3x a day. The next step is developing software to allow electronic data in support of real-time reporting - which works with software that already exists. What is the real-time acuity if this 30-patient ward has the following?

• 5 Level 1 patients	5 x 1 =	5
• 10 Level 2 patients	10 x 2 =	20
• 10 Level 3 patients	10 x 3 =	30
• 3 Level 4 patients	3 x 4 =	12
• 1 Level 5 patient	1 x 5 =	5
• 1 Level 6 patient	<u>1 x 6 =</u>	<u>6</u>
	TOTAL =	78

$$78 \div 30 = 2.6$$

**Real-time
acuity = 2.6**