## Measuring Acuity: Acuity Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Applies to Patient</th>
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| 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  
  \[ 5 \times 1 = 5 \]
- 10 Level 2 patients  
  \[ 10 \times 2 = 20 \]
- 10 Level 3 patients  
  \[ 10 \times 3 = 30 \]
- 3 Level 4 patients  
  \[ 3 \times 4 = 12 \]
- 1 Level 5 patient  
  \[ 1 \times 5 = 5 \]
- 1 Level 6 patient  
  \[ 1 \times 6 = 6 \]

\[ \text{TOTAL} = 78 \]

\[ 78 \div 30 = 2.6 \]

Real-time acuity = 2.6