

## Walking Index for Spinal Cord Injury (WISCI II) Descriptors

Physical limitation for walking secondary to impairment is defined at the person level and indicates the ability of a person to walk after spinal cord injury. The development of this assessment index required a rank ordering along a dimension of impairment, from the level of most severe impairment (0) to least severe impairment (20) based on the use of devices, braces and physical assistance of one or more persons. The order of the levels suggests each successive level is a less impaired level than the former. The ranking of severity is based on the severity of the impairment and not on functional independence in the environment. The following definitions standardize the terms used in each item:

<b>Physical assistance:</b>	‘Physical assistance of two persons’ is moderate to maximum assistance. ‘Physical assistance of one person’ is minimal to moderate assistance. ‘Contact guarding’ is minimal assistance
<b>Braces:</b>	‘Braces’ means one or two braces, either short or long leg. (Splinting of lower extremities for standing is considered long leg bracing). ‘No braces’ means no braces on either leg.
<b>Walker:</b>	‘Walker’ is a conventional rigid walker without wheels.
<b>Crutches:</b>	‘Crutches’ can be Lofstrand (Canadian) or axillary.
<b>Cane:</b>	‘Cane’ is a conventional straight cane.

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## Level Description

- 0 Unable to stand and/or participate in assisted walking.
- 1 Ambulates in parallel bars, with braces and physical assistance of two persons, but less than 10 meters.
- 2 Ambulates in parallel bars, with braces and physical assistance of two persons, 10 meters.
- 3 Ambulates in parallel bars, with braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 4 Ambulates in parallel bars, no braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 5 Ambulates in parallel bars, with no braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.
- 6 Ambulates with walker, with braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 7 Ambulates with two crutches, with braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 8 Ambulates with walker, no braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 9 Ambulates with walker, with braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.
- 10 Ambulates with one cane/crutch, with braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 11 Ambulates with two crutches, no braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 12 Ambulates with two crutches, with braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.
- 13 Ambulates with walker, no braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.
- 14 Ambulates with one cane/crutch, no braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 15 Ambulates with one cane/crutch, with braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.
- 16 Ambulates with two crutches, no braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.
- 17 Ambulates with no devices, no braces and physical assistance of one person, 10 meters.
- 18 Ambulates with no devices, with braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.
- 19 Ambulates with one cane/crutch, no braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.
- 20 Ambulates with no devices, no braces and no physical assistance, 10 meters.

# Scoring Sheet for the Walking Index for Spinal Cord Injury II (WISCI II)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Check descriptors that apply to current walking performance, and then assign the highest level of walking performance. (In scoring a level, one should choose the level at which the patient is safe as judged by the therapist, with patient's comfort level described. If devices other than those stated in the standard definitions are used, they should be documented as descriptors. If there is a discrepancy between two observers, the higher level should be chosen.)

## Descriptors: Make ONE selection only in each section

Devices	Comments	Braces	Comments
D1 Parallel bars < 10 meters		B1 Long Leg Braces - Uses 2 - Locked at knee	
D2 Parallel bars 10+ meters		B2 Long Leg Braces - Uses 1 - Locked at knee	
D3 Walker - Standard		B3 Short Leg Braces - Uses 2 - Unlocked	
D4 Walker - rolling platform		B4 Short Leg Braces - Uses 1 - Unlocked	
D5 Walker - other > describe >>>		B5 Alpine boots	
D6 Crutches - Uses 2		B6 Ace bandages	
D7 Crutches - Uses 1		B7 High tops	
D8 Canes- Quad - Uses 2		B8 Other braces / bracing methods > describe >	
D9 Canes- Quad - Uses 1		B9 No braces	
D10 No devices			
Assistance	Comments	Patient reported comfort level	Comments
A1 Max assist x 2 people*		C1 Very comfortable	
A2 Min/Mod assist x 2 people*		C2 Slightly comfortable	
A3 Min/Mod assist x 1 person <sup>†</sup>		C3 Neither comfortable nor uncomfortable	
A4 No assistance		C4 Slightly uncomfortable	
Patient safety comments			

\*Applies only to WISCI II levels 1 and 2; <sup>†</sup>Applies to WISCI II levels 3,4,6,7,8,10,11,14,17

## WISCI Levels

Level	Devices	Braces	Assistance	Distance
0				Unable
1	Parallel bars	Braces	2 persons	Less than 10 meters
2	Parallel bars	Braces	2 persons	10 meters
3	Parallel bars	Braces	1 person	10 meters
4	Parallel bars	No braces	1 person	10 meters
5	Parallel bars	Braces	No assistance	10 meters
6	Walker	Braces	1 person	10 meters
7	Two crutches	Braces	1 person	10 meters
8	Walker	No braces	1 person	10 meters
9	Walker	Braces	No assistance	10 meters
10	One cane/crutch	Braces	1 person	10 meters
11	Two crutches	No braces	1 person	10 meters
12	Two crutches	Braces	No assistance	10 meters
13	Walker	No braces	No assistance	10 meters
14	One cane/crutch	No braces	1 person	10 meters
15	One cane/crutch	Braces	No assistance	10 meters
16	Two crutches	No braces	No assistance	10 meters
17	No devices	No braces	1 person	10 meters
18	No devices	Braces	No assistance	10 meters
19	One cane/crutch	No braces	No assistance	10 meters
20	No devices	No braces	No assistance	10 meters

Baseline/Self-Selected Level assigned \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum WISCI Level assigned \_\_\_\_\_