

Daily Living Activities-20 (DLA-20)

Rate how often or how well the consumer independently performed or managed each of the 20 Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) in the community during the last 30 days. If the consumer's level of functioning varied, rate the lower score. Consider impairments in functioning due to physical limitations as well as those due to mental impairments. Do not consider environmental limitations (e.g., "no jobs available"). Strengths scored ≥ 5 in an activity indicate functioning "within normal limits" (WNL) for that activity. Enter N/A only if the activity was not assessed & do not exceed 5 N/A DLAs.

1	2	3	4	5 (WNL)	6 (WNL)	7 (WNL)
None of the time; extremely severe impairment of problems in functioning; pervasive level of continuous paid supports needed	A little of the time; severe impairment or problems in functioning; extensive level of continuous paid supports needed	Occasionally; moderately severe impairment or problems in functioning; moderate level of continuous paid supports needed	Some of the time; moderate impairment or problems in functioning; low level of continuous paid supports needed	A good bit of the time; mild impairment or problems in functioning; moderate level of intermittent paid supports needed	Most of the time; very mild impairment or problems in functioning; low level of intermittent paid supports needed	All of the time; independently managed DLA in community; no impairment or problem in functioning requiring paid supports

Activities	Examples of scoring strengths as WNL behaviors (Scores 5-7)	Score
1. Health Practices	Takes care of health issues, manages moods, infections; takes medication as prescribed; follows up on medical appointments.	
2. Housing Stability, Maintenance	Maintains stable housing; organizes possessions, cleans, abides by rules and contributes to maintenance if living with others	
3. Communication	Listens to people, expresses opinions/feelings; makes wishes know effectively.	
4. Safety	Safely moves about community – adequate vision, hearing, makes safe decisions. Safely uses small appliances, ovens/burners, matches, knives, razors, other tools.	
5. Managing Time	Follows regular schedule for bedtime, wake-up, meal times, rarely tardy or absent for work, day programs, appointments, scheduled activities.	
6. Managing Money	Manages money wisely (independent source of funds); controls spending habits.	
7. Nutrition	Eats at least 2 basically nutritious meals daily.	
8. Problem Solving	Resolves basic problems of daily living, asks questions for clarity and setting expectations.	
9. Family Relationships	Gets along with family, positive relationships as parent, sibling, child, significant other family member.	
10. Alcohol/Drug Use	Avoids abuse or abstains from alcohol/drugs, cigarettes; understands signs and symptoms of abuse or dependency; avoids misuse or combining alcohol, drugs, medication.	
11. Leisure	Relaxes with a variety of activities; attends/participates in sports or performing arts events; reads newspapers, magazines, books; recreational games with others; involved arts/crafts; goes to movies.	

Client Code: _____

Assessor: _____

Date: _____

1	2	3	4	5 (WNL)	6 (WNL)	7 (WNL)
None of the time; extremely severe impairment of problems in functioning; pervasive level of continuous paid supports needed	A little of the time; severe impairment or problems in functioning; extensive level of continuous paid supports needed	Occasionally; moderately severe impairment or problems in functioning; moderate level of continuous paid supports needed	Some of the time; moderate impairment or problems in functioning; low level of continuous paid supports needed	A good bit of the time; mild impairment or problems in functioning; moderate level of intermittent paid supports needed	Most of the time; very mild impairment or problems in functioning; low level of intermittent paid supports needed	All of the time; independently managed DLA in community; no impairment or problem in functioning requiring paid supports
Activities		Examples of scoring strengths as WNL behaviors (Scores 5-7)				Score
12. Community Resources		Uses other community services, self-help groups, telephone, public transportation, religious organizations, shopping.				
13. Social Network		Gets along with friends, neighbors, coworkers, other peers.				
14. Sexuality		Appropriate behavior toward others; comfortable with gender, respects privacy and rights of others, practices safe sex or abstains.				
15. Productivity		Independently working, volunteering, homemaking, or learning skills for financial self-support.				
16. Coping Skills		Knows about nature of disability/illness, probable limitations, and symptoms of relapse; behaviors that cause relapse or make situation/condition worse; options for coping, improving, preventing relapse, restoring feelings of self-worth, competence, being in control.				
17. Behavior Norms		Complies with community norms, probation/parole, court requirements, if applicable; controls dangerous, violent, aggressive, bizarre, or nuisance behaviors; respects rights of others.				
18. Personal Hygiene		Cares for personal cleanliness, such as bathing, brushing teeth.				
19. Grooming		Cares for hair, hands, general appearance; shaves.				
20. Dress		Dresses self; wears clean clothes that are appropriate for weather, job, and other activities; clothing is generally neat and intact.				

Scott, R. L., & Presmanes, W. S. (2001). Reliability and validity of the Daily Living Activities Scale: a functional assessment measure for severe mental disorders. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 11(3), 373–389.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/104973150101100306>

Client Code: _____

Assessor: _____

Date: _____