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## The Rancho Los Amigos Scale

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The Rancho Los Amigos Scale is a scale that tracks patients through their TBI recovery and emergence from coma. Just as every brain injury is unique; so is the rate of recovery. One cannot predict the speed with which a brain injury patient will progress from level to level, or at which level the patient will reach a plateau, which is a temporary or a permanent leveling off in the recovery process. The following are brief descriptions of each level within this scale.

- **Level 1:** No response: Patients appear to be in a deep sleep and do not respond to voices, sounds, light or touch (stimuli).
- **Level 2:** Generalized response: Patients move around but with no apparent purpose. The patient may open their eyes but will not focus on anything in particular.
- **Level 3:** Localized response: Patients begin to move their eyes and will focus upon specific people or objects. Patients may be able to follow simple commands.
- **Level 4:** Confused and Agitated: Patients are very confused as to where they are and what is happening. Unable to perform self-care. Patients may become restless, angry or verbally abusive.
- **Level 5:** Confused and Inappropriate, Non-Agitated: Patients remains confused and do not make sense in conversation but can follow simple directions. The patient is able to manage self-care activities with assistance. His memory is impaired and verbalization is often inappropriate. Anger is no longer a major problem.
- **Level 6:** Confused and Appropriate: Patient's speech makes sense and they are able to perform simple tasks such as eating and getting dressed. Learning new things may be difficult.
- **Level 7:** Automatic and Appropriate: Patient's can perform all self-care activities and are usually coherent. They may have difficulty remembering recent events or in solving multi-step problems
- **Level 8:** Purposeful, Appropriate: Stand-By Assistance: Independently attends to and completes familiar tasks for 1 hour in distracting environments. Able to recall and integrate past and recent events. Uses assistive memory devices to recall daily schedule, "to do" lists and record critical information. Initiates and carries out steps to complete familiar personal, household, community, work and leisure..

Acknowledges impairments and disabilities when they interfere with task completion but requires stand-by assistance to take appropriate corrective action. Thinks about consequences of a decision or action with minimal assistance. Overestimates or underestimates abilities. Acknowledges others' needs and feelings and responds appropriately with minimal assistance. Depressed. Irritable. Low frustration tolerance/easily angered. Argumentative. Self-centered. Able to recognize and acknowledge inappropriate social interaction behavior while it is occurring and takes corrective action with minimal assistance

- **Level 9:** Purposeful, Appropriate: Stand-By Assistance on Request: Independently shifts back and forth between tasks and completes them accurately for at least two consecutive hours. Uses assistive memory devices to recall daily schedule, "to do" lists and record critical information. Initiates and carries out steps to complete familiar personal, household, work and leisure. Aware of and acknowledges impairments and disabilities when they interfere with task completion..Able to think about consequences of decisions or actions with assistance when requested. Accurately estimates abilities but requires stand-by assistance to adjust to task demands. Acknowledges others' needs and feelings. Depression may continue. May be easily irritable. May have low frustration tolerance.
- **Level 10:** Purposeful, Appropriate: Modified Independent: Able to handle multiple tasks simultaneously in all environments but may require periodic breaks. Able to independently procure, create and maintain own assistive memory devices. Independently initiates and carries out steps to complete familiar and unfamiliar personal, household, community, work and leisure tasks but may require more than usual amount of time and/or compensatory strategies to complete them. Anticipates impact of impairments and disabilities on ability to complete daily living tasks. Able to independently think about consequences of decisions or actions but may require more than usual amount of time and/or compensatory strategies to select the appropriate decision or action. Accurately estimates abilities and independently adjusts to task demands. Able to recognize the needs and feelings of others and automatically respond in appropriate manner. Periodic periods of depression may occur o Irritability and low frustration tolerance when sick, fatigued and/or under emotional stress. Social interaction behavior is consistently appropriate.