



# An Analysis of Recovery Preference: A Tool to Transcend Professional Bias.



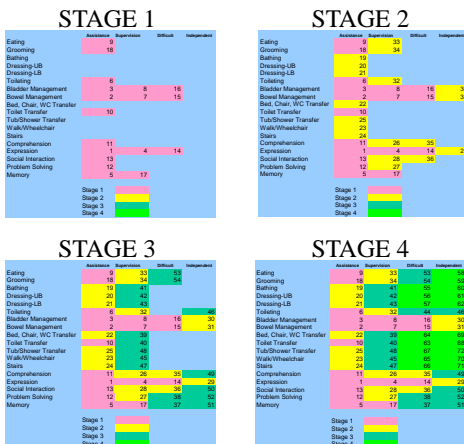
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## Objective

To determine how rehabilitation clinicians would choose to recover from profound disabling illness or injury given the ability to control their own patterns of recovery. We hypothesized that interdisciplinary team members would choose preferentially to recover in those FIM items for which their discipline was primarily responsible.

## Design

A cross-sectional experiment intended to assay how clinicians value various types of functional disabilities and patterns of recovery across the FIM™. This study was based on the Features Resource Trade-Off Game in which players establish the functional abilities most valued by spending recovery points. Clinicians imagined severe limitations in all 18 items of the FIM. The clinicians then chose their optimal pattern of recovery.



## Setting

Inpatient Rehabilitation at Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and Pennsylvania Hospital.

## Participants

72 clinicians including physiatrists, residents, interns, medical students, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, speech therapists, neuropsychologists, and social workers.

## Main outcome measures

Recovery preference utilities. (Calculated as the inverse sum of moves for each FIM item).

## Results

All therapeutic disciplines chose to recover expression, comprehension, and memory first. This was followed by the desire to regain bowel, bladder and toileting functions. Stair climbing had the lowest utility (approximately 1/4th that of expression). Nurses placed higher value on bathing than did the other therapeutic disciplines.

## Conclusion

There were subtle differences in recovery preferences among the rehabilitation professional groups, although those differences were smaller than expected. This procedure appeared to help clinicians look beyond the objectives of their respective disciplines by forcing them to make difficult choices about how they would want to recover. It will be important to see how patients' preference patterns differ from clinicians.

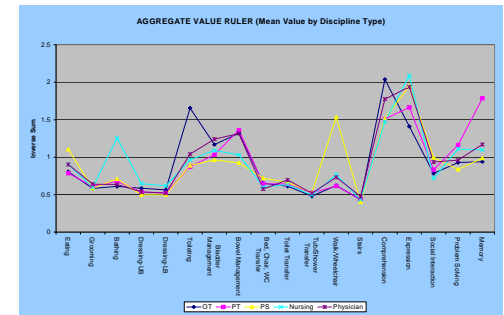


Table with 7 columns: Item, Assistance, Supervision, Difficult, Independent, Sum, Inv. Sum. Lists 18 FIM items and their utility values.

## References

Stineman, M.G., Maislin, G., Nosek, M., Fiedler, R., Granger, C.V.: Comparing consumer and clinician values for alternative functional states: Application of a new feature trade-off Consensus Building Tool. Arch Phys Med Rehabil 79(12):1522-1529, 1998.

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