

FIM[™] and WeeFIM[®]

What are FIM[™] and WeeFIM[®]?

The FIM[™] instrument is a basic indicator of severity of disability. It measures the type and amount of assistance required for a person with a disability to perform basic life activities effectively. It is widely used to measure outcomes of rehabilitation.

WeeFIM[®] is the paediatric version of FIM[™]. It is very similar to the adult FIM[™] but differs in its scoring processes in order to take into account the child's developmental stages

How are FIM[™] and WeeFIM[®] used in the Scheme?

FIM[™] and WeeFIM[®] form part of the criteria for eligibility for both interim (initial 2-year period) and lifetime participation (rest of life) in the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme.

These instruments are only used for certain participants, depending on their age and injury:

- FIM[™] or WeeFIM[®] is needed if the injured person has a traumatic brain injury or burns.
- FIM[™] or WeeFIM[®] is not needed for spinal cord injury, amputations or blindness.
- WeeFIM[®] is not needed if the child is less than three years of age, regardless of their injury.

An injured person needs to score 5 or less on at least one FIM[™] or WeeFIM[®] item because of their injury (e.g. traumatic brain injury or burns) to be eligible for the Scheme. For example, an injured person with a brain injury and lower limb fractures who scores 5 or less for mobility because of their fractures, but does not score 5 or less for any other items because of their brain injury, would not meet the eligibility criteria.

When should WeeFIM[®] be used instead of FIM[™]?

Use the following to decide between WeeFIM[®] and FIM[™]:

- Children aged 0 to <3 years – no WeeFIM[®] (or FIM[™]) is required.
- Children aged 3 to <8 years – WeeFIM[®] must be used because age norms apply.
- Children aged 8 to 18 years – as no age norms apply, either WeeFIM[®] or FIM[™] can be used.

icare lifetime care recommends using the most appropriate instrument, depending on the injured person's age or life stage and participation roles.

Which WeeFIM[®] norms should be used?

A table of norms is attached to the WeeFIM[®] score sheet, this can be found on our website at www.icare.nsw.gov.au.

Who can conduct a FIM™ and WeeFIM® assessment for eligibility?

For interim participation, assessments can be completed by a FIM™ or WeeFIM® credentialed member of the injured person's treating team or an assessor approved in writing by us.

For lifetime participation, the assessment must be completed by a credentialed assessor who is appointed by us.

We can't accept assessments completed by someone who is not credentialed. In order to be credentialed, a person must complete training and pass the credentialing exam.

The Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre (AROC) has the licence for the use of FIM™ and WeeFIM® in Australia and coordinates credentialing. We run FIM™ and WeeFIM® training in conjunction with AROC for providers working in the Scheme. Training dates are available in our Learning Management System, *Lifetime Learning*. Information can be found on our website at www.icare.nsw.gov.au.

Which should be used for lifetime assessment: FIM™ or WeeFIM®?

If WeeFIM® is used for the interim participation assessment; it doesn't have to be used again for the lifetime participation assessment. The instrument used for the lifetime participation assessment will be determined by us and should be the one that is most appropriate for the participant's age or life stage and participation roles.

For example, a 17-year-old participant who has finished school and is working would have an adult FIM™ assessment for lifetime participation, even if their initial application included a WeeFIM® assessment conducted at a paediatric hospital when they were 15 years old.

If more than one assessment has been done, which one will be used?

If there's more than one FIM™ or WeeFIM® assessment, the one completed closest to the date that an eligibility decision is made will be used. This is so the most current information about the injured person's need for assistance is considered when the decision is made. However, we would like to see all assessments if more than one FIM™ or WeeFIM® has been completed.