

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 Lifetime Care and Workers Care?

FIM[™] and WeeFIM[®] form part of the eligibility criteria for

- both interim and lifetime participation in the Lifetime Care and Support Scheme
- both interim and ongoing participation in the Workers Care program.

The FIM[™] or WeeFIM[®] is

- needed if the injured person has a brain injury or burns
- **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 traumatic brain injury or burns injury resulting from the motor vehicle or workplace accident to be eligible for Lifetime Care or Workers Care. 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.

We recommend using the most appropriate instrument, depending on the injured person's age, life stage, and participation roles.

Which WeeFIM® norms should I use?

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 Lifetime Care or Workers Care eligibility?

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

For lifetime participation in Lifetime care or ongoing acceptance into Workers' Care, the assessment must be completed by a credentialed assessor who we appoint.

Assessments completed by someone who is not credentialed will not be accepted. A clinician must complete training and pass an exam to be credentialed.

The Australasian Rehabilitation Outcomes Centre (AROC) has the licence for the use of FIM™ and WeeFIM® in Australia and coordinates credentialing. icare runs FIM™ and WeeFIM® training in conjunction with AROC for providers supporting people in Lifetime Care and Workers Care. 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 assessment, FIM™ or WeeFIM®, should I use?

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

For example, a 17-year-old person 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 a decision is made will be used. However, we would like to see all assessments if more than one FIM™ or WeeFIM® has been completed.

Do I need to use the icare FIM™ or WeeFIM® score sheet?

Yes! Please use the icare FIM™ or WeeFIM® score sheet available on our website. We may request that a FIM™ or WeeFIM® be completed on our score sheet if it is sent to us on a different form.

Timing and the FIM™ or WeeFIM®

The FIM™ or WeeFIM® assessment must be completed before the medical is completed for interim and lifetime applications. The specialist completing the medical certificate will need to sign the FIM™ or WeeFIM® and indicate if they agree or disagree with the results.

For interim applications, the FIM™ or WeeFIM® assessment must be completed within 20 working days of the date of a complete application. For Lifetime applications, these assessments must be done within 40 working days of the date of application.

Are there any special considerations when completing the FIM™ or WeeFIM® for Lifetime Care and Workers Care?

Include references and reports

Include references to other reports, including neuropsychology reports, and sources of information you have considered in your FIM™ or WeeFIM® assessment. For interim assessments, this could include reports from the clinical team supporting the person or, for a lifetime assessment, reports from clinicians in the community.

Include observations

You may refer to observations from carers and family members for some items.

Clearly show the relationship of the score to the brain or burns injury

Ensure that for scores of 5 or less you identify clearly if the issues are related to the brain or burn injury by selecting the yes or no check box on our FIM™ or WeeFIM® score sheet. Where a combination of factors contributes to this score, we need you to identify all the contributing factors.

Please be specific about how you have arrived at your assessment when you send your report to us.

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