



Frailty Line

pilot commencing 30th October 2023

- Looking for some advice and guidance on how best to manage a frail older patient (>65yrs) presenting in crisis?
- Want to discuss if conveyance to hospital is the best plan for your patient?
- Looking for advice on management or where to refer a patient to?

The Frailty Line is open between 09.00-17.00hrs
Monday to Friday

Call 01708 435000 ext. 2670

to be automatically connected to one of our Frailty
Clinicians

Please have your patient details to hand, including
the current frailty score (essential)

CLINICAL FRAILTY SCALE

	1	VERY FIT	People who are robust, active, energetic and motivated. They tend to exercise regularly and are among the fittest for their age.
	2	FIT	People who have no active disease symptoms but are less fit than category 1. Often, they exercise or are very active occasionally, e.g., seasonally.
	3	MANAGING WELL	People whose medical problems are well controlled, even if occasionally symptomatic, but often are not regularly active beyond routine walking.
	4	LIVING WITH VERY MILD FRAILTY	Previously "vulnerable," this category marks early transition from complete independence. While not dependent on others for daily help, often symptoms limit activities. A common complaint is being "slowed up" and/or being tired during the day.
	5	LIVING WITH MILD FRAILTY	People who often have more evident slowing, and need help with high order instrumental activities of daily living (finances, transportation, heavy housework). Typically, mild frailty progressively impairs shopping and walking outside alone, meal preparation, medications and begins to restrict light housework.

	6	LIVING WITH MODERATE FRAILTY	People who need help with all outside activities and with keeping house. Inside, they often have problems with stairs and need help with bathing and might need minimal assistance (cuing, standby) with dressing.
	7	LIVING WITH SEVERE FRAILTY	Completely dependent for personal care, from whatever cause (physical or cognitive). Even so, they seem stable and not at high risk of dying (within ~6 months).
	8	LIVING WITH VERY SEVERE FRAILTY	Completely dependent for personal care and approaching end of life. Typically, they could not recover even from a minor illness.
	9	TERMINALLY ILL	Approaching the end of life. This category applies to people with a life expectancy <6 months, who are not otherwise living with severe frailty. (Many terminally ill people can still exercise until very close to death.)

SCORING FRAILTY IN PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA

The degree of frailty generally corresponds to the degree of dementia. Common symptoms in mild dementia include forgetting the details of a recent event, though still remembering the event itself, repeating the same question/story and social withdrawal.

In moderate dementia, recent memory is very impaired, even though they seemingly can remember their past life events well. They can do personal care with prompting.

In severe dementia, they cannot do personal care without help.

In very severe dementia they are often bedfast. Many are virtually mute.