

# Assessing Risk for Elder Abuse Using Decision Matrix for Elder Safety Tool

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## Background

- 15.7% of older adult population at risk for abuse
- Cognitive & functional decline increases elder abuse risk
- Elder abuse forms: physical, sexual, financial, psychological, neglect
- APRNs seek tools to identify elder abuse risk factors

## Project Purpose

Provide a classification tool that assesses elder abuse risk over a continuum as cognitive & functional decline occurs

- ❖ Green-mild
- ❖ Yellow-moderate
- ❖ Red-severe

Capacity → Health ↓	Full cognitive function	Obvious focal decline	Multiple focal and partial global decline	Full global decline
Full physical health/function, managed with medication	Community dweller, handling all aspects of life	Community dweller with minor deficits present, requiring assistance with one ADL	Community or institutional dweller with identified focal deficits, requiring assistance with one ADL	N/A
Mild health/function decline, corrected with medications or activity	Community dweller, requiring assistance with one ADL	Community or institutional dweller requiring assistance with some ADLs	Community or institutional dweller with identified focal deficits, requiring assistance with some ADLs; requiring assistance with some decision- making tasks	Community or institutional dweller with full global decline deficits; requiring assistance with most ADLs; requiring assistance with all decision-making tasks
Moderate health/function decline	Community or institutional dweller requiring assistance with some ADLs; has full decision- making capacities	Community or institutional dweller requiring assistance with multiple ADLs; requiring assistance with some decision- making tasks	Community or institutional dweller with identified focal deficits, requiring assistance with multiple ADLs; requiring assistance with most decision- making tasks	Community or institutional dweller with full global decline deficits; requiring assistance with all ADLs; requiring assistance with all decision-making tasks
Severe health/function decline	Community or institutional dweller requiring assistance with all ADLs; has full decision-making capacities	Community or institutional dweller requiring assistance with all ADLs; requiring assistance with some decision- making tasks	Community or institutional dweller requiring assistance with all ADLs; requiring assistance with all decision-making tasks	Community or institutional dweller with full global decline deficits; requiring assistance with all ADLs; requiring assistance with all decision-making tasks

Source: Speck, P.M. & Baker, N.R. (2021). Case series for LNC: Assessing risk for elder abuse using DMES. *Journal of Legal Nurse Consulting*, 32(2), 38-45. Free journal access

## Decision Matrix for Elder Safety

### Cognitive

- Mini-Cog
- Mini Mental State Eval

### Functional

- Katz Index of Independence in Activities
- Lawton Instrumental Activities of Daily Living

## Conclusion

- Provides APRNs roadmap for elder abuse risk
- Stratifies elder abuse risk based on cognitive & functional capacity

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