

The Chelsea Critical Care Physical Assessment tool (CPAx)

Aspect of Physicality	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Respiratory Function	Complete ventilator dependence. Mandatory breaths only. May be fully sedated/ paralysed.	Ventilator dependence. Mandatory breaths with some spontaneous effort.	Spontaneously breathing with continuous invasive or non-invasive ventilatory support.	Spontaneously breathing with intermittent invasive or non-invasive ventilatory support Or continuous high flow oxygen (>15litres).	Receiving standard oxygen therapy (<15 litres).	Self-ventilating with no oxygen therapy.
Cough	Absent cough, may be fully sedated or paralysed.	Cough stimulated on deep suctioning only.	Weak ineffective voluntary cough, unable to clear independently e.g. requires deep suction.	Weak, partially effective voluntary cough, sometimes able to clear secretions e.g. requires yanker suctioning.	Effective cough, clearing secretions with airways clearance techniques.	Consistent effective voluntary cough, clearing secretions independently.
Moving Within the Bed e.g. rolling.	Unable, maybe fully sedated/ paralysed.	Initiates movement. Requires assistance ≥ 2 people (maximal).	Initiates movement. Requires assistance ≥ 1 person (moderate).	Initiates movement. Requires assistance 1 person (minimal).	Independent in ≥ 3 seconds.	Independent in < 3 seconds.
Supine to Sitting on the Edge of the Bed.	Unable/ Unstable.	Initiates movement. Requires assistance ≥ 2 people (maximal).	Initiates movement. Requires assistance ≥ 1 person (moderate).	Initiates movement. Requires assistance 1 person (minimal).	Independent in ≥ 3 seconds.	Independent in < 3 seconds.
Dynamic Sitting (i.e. when sitting on the edge of the bed/unsupported sitting)	Unable/ Unstable	Requires assistance ≥ 2 people (maximal).	Requires assistance ≥ 1 person (moderate).	Requires assistance 1 person (minimal).	Independent with some dynamic sitting balance, i.e. able to alter trunk position within base of support.	Independent with full dynamic sitting balance, i.e. able to reach out of base of support.
Standing Balance	Unable/ unstable/ bedbound.	Tilt table or similar	Standing hoist or similar.	Dependant on frame, crutches or similar.	Independent without aides.	Independent without aids and full dynamic standing balance, i.e. able to

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						reach out of base of support.
Sit to Stand (Starting position: ≤ 90 degrees hip flexion)	Unable/ Unstable.	Sit to stand with maximal assistance e.g. standing hoist or similar.	Sit to stand with moderate assistance e.g. 1-2 people.	Sit to stand with minimal assistance e.g. 1 person.	Sit to stand independently pushing through arms of the chair.	Sit to stand independently without upper limb involvement.
Transferring from Bed to Chair.	Unable/ Unstable.	Full hoist.	Standing hoist or similar.	Pivot transfer (no stepping) with mobility aid or physical assistance.	Stand and step transfer with mobility aid OR physical assistance.	Independent transfer without equipment.
Stepping	Unable/ Unstable.	Using a standing hoist, or similar.	Using mobility aids AND assistance > 1 person (moderate).	Using mobility aid AND assistance 1 person (minimal).	Using mobility aid OR assistance 1 (minimal).	Independent without aid.
Grip Strength (predicted mean for age and gender on the strongest hand.)	Unable to assess.	< 20%	< 40%	< 60%	< 80%	≥80%