

Western Health

High Risk Pre-Operative Optimisation Clinic (HRPOOC)

Referral criteria

ELECTIVE surgery AND any of the following:

1. Need for medical opinion and/or shared decision making in patients in whom the benefits of surgery or post operative outcomes are uncertain*
2. Multiple medical comorbidities or unexplained symptoms requiring further assessment and optimisation.
3. Clinical frailty scale (CFS) equal to or greater than 5**.
4. History of cognitive impairment (including delirium and/or dementia).

* Based on surgeon or anesthetist discretion.

**Based on Rockwood clinical frailty index (see below)

Clinical Frailty Scale

Clinical Frailty Scale*



1 Very Fit – People who are robust, active, energetic and motivated. These people commonly exercise regularly. They are among the fittest for their age.



2 Well – 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**, but are **not regularly active** beyond routine walking.



4 Vulnerable – 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 Mildly Frail – These people often have **more evident slowing**, and need help in **high order IADLs** (finances, transportation, heavy housework, medications). Typically, mild frailty progressively impairs shopping and walking outside alone, meal preparation and housework.



6 Moderately Frail – People 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 Severely Frail – **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 Very Severely Frail – Completely dependent, approaching the 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 evidently frail**.

Scoring frailty in people with dementia

The degree of frailty 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.

* 1. Canadian Study on Health & Aging, Revised 2008.
2. K. Rockwood et al. A global clinical measure of fitness and frailty in elderly people. CMAJ 2005;173:489-495.

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<https://clinicalexcellence.qld.gov.au/priority-areas/service-improvement/improving-quality-safety-and-care-older-queenlanders/identification>

Send referrals to: optimisationclinic@wh.org.au

Include details of patient details, clinical question, proposed surgery date, previous cardiac and pulmonary investigations