

Arkansas Brief Likely Eligible (ABLE) Screen INSTRUCTIONS

This document contains instructions for administering the financial eligibility and medical eligibility portions of the ABLE Screen. Scoring criteria are on the screening form.

Financial Eligibility

Q1. Currently enrolled in SSI or Medicaid

Individuals currently receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or who currently enrolled in Arkansas Medicaid have already had income/resources levels verified, and are likely to be financially eligible for HCBS waiver services.

Q2. Income

Include all individual income sources, **except** for special checks from the Veteran's Administration used to help pay for home care or reimburse for medical expenses (this includes VA Aid and Attendance, Homebound benefits, reimbursement for Continuing Medical Expenses (CME) and Unusual Medical Expenses (UME)). All other income sources, including Social Security, Social Security Disability, and pension checks should be included. Do not include any income received by a spouse.

Note that even if an individual is not currently eligible due to income levels, he or she could become eligible for a Nursing Facility or Assisted Living (Living Choices waiver) if a Miller Income Trust is established.

Q3. Resources

Include the value of anything the individual or his/her spouse owns that is worth money and that could be sold or cashed in, even if there is a penalty fee for doing so. This includes bank accounts, stocks, bonds, annuities, trusts, second vehicles, boats, property other than the individual's home, cash value on life insurance, and other assets.

Medical Eligibility

The questions in the medical eligibility section are conversational versions of items from the interRAI Home Care[®] assessment and have simplified scoring choices. The questions can be answered either directly by the person or by someone who is involved with their daily supports and services, such as an unpaid caregiver or a home care aide.

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Part One: Everyday Activities

Q1.-Q5. Scoring for Everyday Activities Section

0. Independent

The individual is able to perform the specific everyday activity independently. A person would be considered independent if a caregiver provided oversight or set-up no more than 2 times on that specific activity during the 3 day look-back period.

1. Set-up help only

Article or device provided within reach of person 3 or more times during the 3 day look-back period. This includes giving or holding out an item for the person to take from the helper, even if the helper then leaves the person alone to complete the activity. Examples of set-up include, but are not limited to: For moving around, handing the person a walker or cane; for toilet use, handing the person a bedpan or placing within reach; for eating, cutting food, opening containers at meals, carrying a tray to a table, or giving one food item at a time.

2. Supervision

Oversight, encouragement, or cueing was provided 3 or more times during the last 3 days **OR** supervision was provided 1 or more times **and** physical assistance provided no more than 2 times (for a total of 3 or more episodes of help or supervision). Examples of supervision include, but are not limited to: If the helper does not leave the room, but remains nearby to watch over the person, this person is receiving oversight or supervision. The helper does not provide any hands on assistance. The person is physically able to reposition self in bed but has a tendency to favor and remain on his/her left side. The person needs frequent reminders and monitoring to reposition self while in bed.

3. Limited assistance

The person received physical help in guided maneuvering of limbs or other non-weight-bearing assistance 3 or more times during the last 3 days **OR** a combination of non-weight-bearing help with more help provided no more than 2 times during period (for a total of 3 or more episodes of physical assistance). Examples of limited assistance include, but are not limited to: The person is highly involved. The person moved independently in and out of armchairs but always need physical guidance of a helper to get in and out of bed safely. Transferring ability varied throughout each day. The person receives no

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assistance most of the time. The person has difficulty initiating activity always eats independently after someone guides his/her hand with the first few bits and then offers encouragement to continue.

4. Weight bearing help given

The activity was performed only with complete help from a caregiver during at least part of the last 3 days **OR** the person performed part of the activity on his/her own, but weight-bearing help was provided 3 or more times. Examples of weight bearing help include, but are not limited to: A caregiver holding the full weight of an arm while assisting the person with putting on a shirt; for moving around, taking the person's weight by holding him or her under the armpit, or allowing the person to lean on the helper's arm.

5. Activity did not occur

During the last three days, the activity was not performed by the person or caregivers. In other words, the specific activity did not occur at all (regardless of ability). Example of activity not occurring: For moving around, being restricted to the bed for the entire 3 day period and never being transferred from the bed.

Q6. Bladder continence

0. **Complete continence;** The person has complete control. Example: The person is taken to the toilet after every meal, before bed and once during the night. The person is never found wet.
1. **One or more episodes, but not daily:** The person may have incontinent episodes once a week or less. Example: Although the person is generally continent of urine, every once in a while (about once in the last week) the person doesn't make it to the bathroom to urinate in time after they had taken their daily diuretic pill.
2. **One or more episodes daily, but some control:** The person has incontinent episodes that tend to occur daily, but some control is present (e.g. in the day time. Example: The person gets tired particularly in the afternoon and is unable to make it to the bathroom
3. **Daily incontinence episodes without control:** The person has inadequate control. Incontinent episodes occur multiple times daily. Example: Person is

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frail and has very stiff, painful arthritis and perhaps is bedfast and is not toileted and is incontinent of urine for all episodes.

- 4. No urine output:** The person has not had any urine output from the bladder (e.g. hemo-dialysis). Persons with an indwelling catheter is considered as continent with a catheter. If the collection device remains empty or very small amount in a 24 hour period, this would be considered a no urine output.

Part Two: Cognition

Q7. Decision making

0. Independent and reasonable

Person made decisions independently and decisions were reasonable and safe. Example: The person's daily routine was organized and he/she made his/her own decisions in a consistent, reasonable, and organized fashion.

1. Poor or unsafe in specific situations

In specific recurring situation, person's decisions were poor or unsafe. Example: The person made safe decisions in familiar situations, but experienced some difficulty in decision-making when faced with new tasks or situations.

2. Consistently poor

Person's decisions were consistently poor. Example: The person requires reminders, cues, and supervision in planning, organizing, and conducting daily routines.

3. Rarely or never

Person rarely or never made decisions. Example: Caregivers must make most or all decisions for the person.

Q8. Remembering recent events

0. No

The person has no difficulty remembering recent events, such as meals or activities the day of the screen.

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1. Yes

The person has at least some difficulty remembering recent events.

Q9. Making self understood

0. No difficulty

Person expresses ideas without difficulty. Example: Clearly comprehends the speaker's messages(s) and demonstrates comprehension by words or actions/behaviors.

1. Understood, but some difficulty

Person is understood but has difficulty finding words or finishing thoughts. Example: The person may miss some part or intent of the message. With prompting, the person can often comprehend the conversation.

2. Limited or rarely/never understood

Person is limited to making concrete requests or is rarely or never understood. Example: The person demonstrates frequent difficulties integrating information, and responds adequately only to simple and direct questions or directions. When the message is rephrased or simplified or gestures are used, the person's comprehension may improve.

Part Three: Health Conditions and Care

Circle the items corresponding with needs the person has or conditions that the person exhibits or has been diagnosed with. Note that people who receive the listed medical care from licensed medical professionals and those receiving the listed types of therapy daily will be considered skilled, and therefore not eligible for Home and Community Based Services.

Questions or Concerns?

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