



Social Security (Tables for the Assessment of Work-related Impairment for Disability Support Pension) Determination 2011

Table 15 - Functions of Consciousness

Introduction to Table 15

- Table 15 is to be used where the person has a permanent condition resulting in functional impairment due to involuntary loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness, (e.g. epilepsy, some forms of migraine, or poorly controlled diabetes mellitus, transient ischaemic attacks).
- The diagnosis of the condition must be made by an appropriately qualified medical practitioner.
- Self-report of symptoms alone is insufficient.
- There must be corroborating evidence of the person's impairment.
- Examples of corroborating evidence for the purposes of this Table include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - a report from the person's treating doctor;
 - a report from a medical specialist (e.g. neurologist, endocrinologist or physician) confirming diagnosis of conditions associated with episodes of loss of or altered state of consciousness (e.g. epilepsy, diabetes mellitus, transient ischaemic attacks, some forms of migraine);
 - assessments or reports from practitioners specialising in the treatment and management of these conditions, including neurologists, endocrinologists, clinical nurse consultants or nurse practitioners specialising in diabetes management.

Points	Descriptors
0	<p><i>There is no functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness during waking hours when occupied with a task or activity.</i></p> <p>(1) The person does not experience loss of consciousness or an altered state of consciousness during waking hours when occupied with a task or activity.</p>

5	<p><i>There is a mild functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness during waking hours when occupied with a task or activity.</i></p> <p>(1) The person:</p> <p>(a) either:</p> <p>(i) has rare episodes of involuntary loss of consciousness, which:</p> <p>(A) occur no more than twice per year; and</p> <p>(B) do not usually require hospitalisation; or</p> <p>(ii) has episodes of altered state of consciousness, which:</p> <p>(A) occur no more than twice per year; and</p> <p>(B) do not usually requiring hospitalisation; and</p> <p>(b) is able to perform most activities of daily living between episodes; and</p> <p>(c) may have restrictions on a driver's licence due to the medical condition.</p>
10	<p><i>There is a moderate functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness during waking hours when occupied with a task or activity.</i></p> <p>(1) The person:</p> <p>(a) either:</p> <p>(i) has episodes of involuntary loss of consciousness:</p> <p>(A) which occur more than twice each year but not every month; and</p> <p>(B) which require the person to receive first aid measures and occasionally emergency medication or hospitalisation; or</p> <p>(ii) has episodes of involuntary altered state of consciousness:</p> <p>(A) which occur at least once per month; and</p> <p>(B) which are less than 30 minutes in duration; and</p> <p>(C) during which the person's functional abilities are affected (e.g. the person remains standing or sitting but is unaware of their surroundings or actions during the episode); and</p> <p>(b) is able to perform many activities of daily living between episodes; and</p> <p>(c) is unlikely to be granted a driver's licence and may have other safety-related restrictions on activities; and</p> <p>(d) is not able to attend work, education or training activities on a full-time basis and is restricted due to safety issues in the work-related activities that they can undertake.</p>

20	<p><i>There is a severe functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness during waking hours when occupied with a task or activity.</i></p> <p>(1) The person:</p> <p>(a) either:</p> <p>(i) has episodes of involuntary loss of consciousness:</p> <p>(A) which occur at least once each month; and</p> <p>(B) which require the person to receive first aid measures and may require emergency medication or hospitalisation; or</p> <p>(ii) has episodes of altered state of consciousness:</p> <p>(A) which occur at least once per week; and</p> <p>(B) during which the person's functional abilities are affected during these episodes (e.g. the person remains standing or sitting but is unaware of their surroundings or actions during the episode); and</p> <p>(b) is unable to perform many activities of daily living between episodes; and</p> <p>(c) cannot obtain a driver's licence on medical grounds and has other safety-related restrictions on activities; and</p> <p>(d) is unable to attend work, education or training activities, for at least 15 hours per week.</p>
30	<p><i>There is an extreme functional impact from loss of consciousness or altered state of consciousness during waking hours.</i></p> <p>(1) The person:</p> <p>(a) either:</p> <p>(i) has frequent episodes of involuntary loss of consciousness:</p> <p>(A) which occur at least once each week; and</p> <p>(B) which require the person to receive first aid measures emergency medication or hospitalisation; or</p> <p>(ii) has frequent episodes of altered state of consciousness:</p> <p>(A) which occur most days; and</p> <p>(B) during which the person's functional abilities are affected during these episodes (e.g. the person remains standing or sitting but is unaware of their surroundings or actions during the episode); and</p> <p>(b) is unable to perform most activities of daily living between episodes; and</p> <p>(c) cannot obtain a driver's licence on medical grounds and has other safety-related restrictions on activities; and</p> <p>(d) is not able to attend work, education or training activities at all.</p>