

## Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR)

Overview: Morris developed the Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) to determine the impairment associated with dementia. The author is from Washington University in St. Louis.

Parameters:

- (1) memory
- (2) orientation
- (3) judgment and problem solving
- (4) community affairs
- (5) home and hobbies
- (6) personal care

Score the impairment when decline is due to cognitive loss not impairment from other causes.

Impairment	Points
none (normal)	0
questionable	0.5
mild impairment	1
moderate impairment	2
severe impairment	3

Parameter	Finding	Points
memory	no memory loss or slight inconstant forgetfulness	0
	consistent slight forgetfulness; partial recollection of events; "benign" forgetfulness	0.5
	moderate memory loss; more marked for recent events; defect interferes with everyday activities	1
	severe memory loss; only highly learned material retained; new material rapidly lost	2
	severe memory loss; only fragments remain	3
orientation	fully oriented	0
	fully oriented except for slight difficulty with time relationships	0.5

	moderate difficulty with time relationships; oriented to place at examination; may have geographic disorientation elsewhere	1
	severe difficulty with time relationships; usually disoriented to time often to place	2
	oriented to person only	3
judgment and problem solving	solves everyday problems and handles business and financial affairs well; judgment good in relation to past performance	0
	slight impairment in solving problems similarities and differences	0.5
	moderate difficulty in handling problems similarities and differences; social judgment usually maintained	1
	severely impaired in handling problems similarities and differences; social judgment usually impaired	2
	unable to make judgments or solve problems	3
community affairs	independent function at usual level in job shopping and volunteer and social groups	0
	slight impairment in these activities	0.5
	unable to function independently in these activities although may still be engaged in some; appears normal to casual inspection	1
	appears well enough to be taken to functions outside of the family home; unable to function independently outside of home	2
	appears to ill to be taken to function outside of family home; unable to function independently outside of home	3
home and hobbies	life at home hobbies and intellectual interests well maintained	0
	life at home hobbies and intellectual interests slightly impaired	0.5
	mild but definite impairment of function at home; more difficult chores abandoned; more complicated hobbies and interests abandoned	1
	only simple chores preserved; very restricted interests poorly maintained	2
	no significant function in home	3
personal care	fully capable of self-care	0

	needs prompting	1
	requires assistance in dressing hygiene keeping of personal effects	2
	requires much help with personal care; frequent incontinence	3

where:

- In personal care there is no questionable category.
  - If unable to decide between 2 categories of impairment ("draw") then select the higher impairment.
  - If aphasia is present to a greater degree than the general dementia then rate based on the general level of dementia based on nonlanguage cognitive function.

Interpretation:

- Memory is the primary category and the other 5 are secondary.

Results	CDR Value
3 to 5 secondary categories same as M	M
1 secondary categories same as M with 2 greater and 2 less	M
2 secondary categories same as M with 2 greater and 1 less	M
2 secondary categories same as M with 1 greater and 2 less	M
3 to 5 secondary categories > M	value for majority > M; if tied use value closest to M
M = 0.5 and 3 to 5 secondary categories >= 1.0	1
M = 0 and 2 to 5 secondary categories >= 0.5	0.5
3 to 5 secondary categories < M	value for majority < M; if tied use value closest to M
3 to 5 secondary categories 0 and M >= 1	0.5
3 secondary categories > M and 2 categories < M	M

References:

Morris JC. The Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR): Current version and scoring rules. *Neurology*. 1993; 43: 2412-2414.