



1: What is the ACFI?

The ACFI is the new Aged Care Funding Instrument to be used for determining the level of care payments for residents in aged care homes. Along with the new funding instrument, new categories of funding are also being introduced.

The new method is simpler with fewer basic funding categories, and two new supplements that will ensure funding is better matched to the needs of people with dementia and those with complex health care needs.

The time spent by aged care homes assessing residents for the purposes of funding will significantly reduce.

Who will benefit?

Residents in aged care homes will benefit from care payments that are more closely aligned with their care needs. Higher levels of care subsidy will be paid for residents with the highest care needs.

Residents and staff will benefit from less staff time being spent assessing residents for funding, and more staff time available for providing care.

When will this be implemented?

From 20 March 2008, new residents will be assessed using the ACFI, and care payments will be made according to this.

Existing residents will be assessed using the ACFI when their classification under the current arrangements expires.

Existing residents will remain on their current RCS subsidy until their care needs increase (this is a 'grand-parenting' of the care subsidies of existing residents). The maximum payment for those with the highest care needs will be progressively increased over four years.

What are the funding categories?

There are three categories, or 'domains', of funding:

1. Activities of Daily Living
2. Behaviour Supplement
3. Complex Health Care Supplement

Each of these domains has *three funded levels* - Low, Medium and High.

The ACFI process

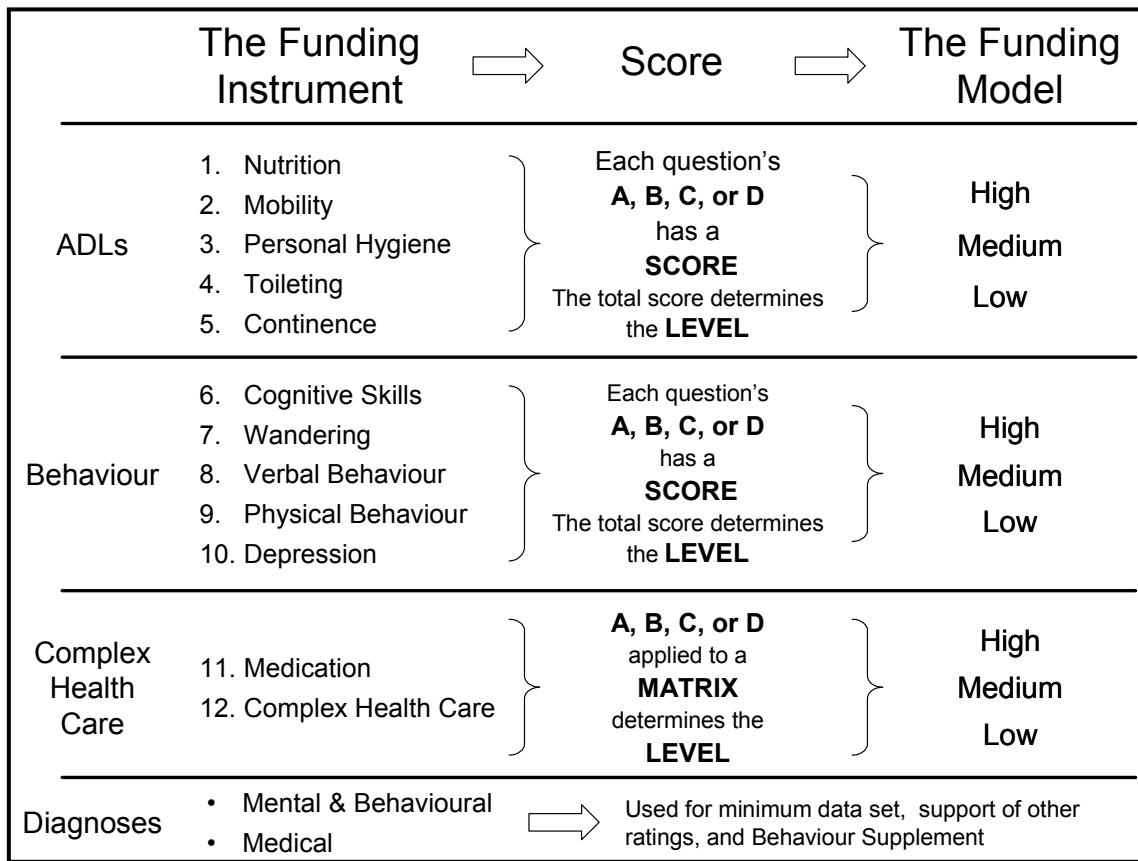
The ACFI measures the need for care through the use of standard assessment tools and the completion of ACFI checklists.

The details of the required assessments are in the ACFI User Guide and Assessment Pack. The outcome of questions 1 to 12 is a rating of A, B, C, or D. The outcome of the diagnosis questions is a record of diagnosed disorders.

How does the ACFI work?

The ACFI uses information from 12 questions and 2 categories of diagnosis to place a resident in the Low, Medium, or High category of each of the three funding domains. No funding will be provided for a domain if the resident has no or minimal assessed care needs.

The relationship between the questions and the funding domains is shown in the illustration below.



Further information

Further information on the ACFI is contained in the other information sheets and available from the Department of Health and Ageing's web site: www.health.gov.au/acfi

The ACFI User Guide and other documents are available for download at this site.