

Assessment of Cognitive Functioning

Subject

Instructions for assessing cognitive functioning in the context of the Canadian immigration medical examination (IME).

Goal/Objective

These instructions are provided to ensure that panel physicians (PPs) follow a consistent and appropriate process for the following:

- identification of clients with possible diminished cognitive capacity; and
- grading of an IME for a client with diminished cognitive capacity.

Instructions

There are various tools available for assessing cognitive functioning. For the purpose of standardizing scores, the raw score of the tool used to assess cognitive functioning should be transposed to a scale of 30. In scoring the client's cognitive functioning, the PP may need to take into account mitigating factors such as the client's educational attainment, literacy and cultural considerations. In certain circumstances, the raw score may be interpreted upon consideration of additional information such as anecdotal information from family members.

If an interpreter is used, PPs must select and ensure that the interpreter is unbiased and has no connection to the client. Family members or friends cannot act as an interpreter for a client. The use of a professional interpreter is at the client's expense.

An assessment of cognitive functioning is mandatory for all adult clients who:

- are 75 years of age and older;
- have abnormal findings on physical examination of mental and cognitive state regardless of age; or
- have abnormal findings on physical examination of nervous system regardless of age.

Based on the PP's clinical findings, an assessment of cognitive functioning is also recommended for adult clients with:

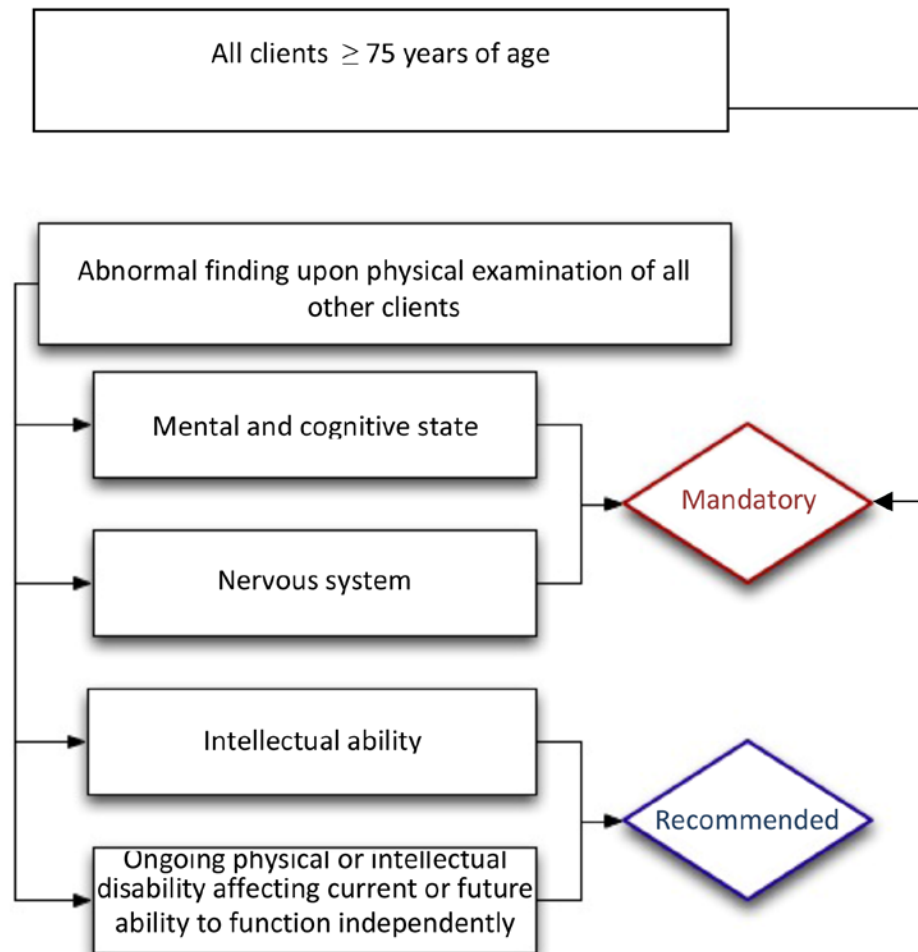
- abnormal findings on physical examination of intellectual ability; or
- an ongoing physical or intellectual disability affecting their current or future ability to function independently.

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Grading

All IMEs for clients with a cognitive functioning score of 25/30 or lower must be graded B

Algorithm for the Assessment of Cognitive Functioning



HB Approval and Authority

Director General, NHQ, Health Branch, CIC

Implementation Date

2013/04/01

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