Johns Hopkins Highest Level of Mobility (JH-HLM) Scale
Frequently Asked Questions

Q: STANDING - IS THIS ACHIEVED WHEN THEY STAND WITH A STANDING TABLE FOR MORE THAN A MINUTE? OR ONLY IF THEY STAND UNASSISTED FOR >1 MINUTE?
A: Standing with a standing table for >1 minute would still be considered “standing.”

Q: TRANSFER TO CHAIR, IS THIS ACTIVE OR PASSIVE (FOR EXAMPLE, WITH LIFTING OR WHEN USING THE MOBILIZER CHAIR? 
A: Dependent transfers to the chair (e.g. use of hydraulic lift) are scored as “2.”

Q: DOES IT MATTER HOW MUCH ASSISTANCE THE PATIENT NEEDS TO ACHIEVE AN ITEM?
A: Level of assistance does not affect scoring, EXCEPT in the case of a dependent transfer to the chair. (See question 2 response.)

Q: SITTING AT THE EDGE OF THE BED, DOES IT MATTER HOW LONG THEY SIT? AND IF THEY ARE SITTING IN BETWEEN BLOCKS?
A: Duration and use of support devices do not affect the score for sitting edge of bed.

Q: FOR ‘BED ACTIVITY’ DOES THE PASSIVE CYCLING COUNT OR ONLY WHEN THEY CYCLE ACTIVELY?
A: Passive cycling is considered to be “bed activity,” and would score as a “2.”

Q: FOR WALKING 10+ STEPS, DOES MARCHING ON THE SPOT COUNT OR DOES IT NEED TO BE ACTUAL STEPS AWAY FROM THE BED?
A: Marching on the spot does not count towards walking. This patient would be scored as a “5” (standing >1 min).

Q: HOW SHOULD A PATIENT BE SCORED IF THEY REQUIRE A DEPENDENT LIFT (I.E. MECHANICAL LIFT OR ≥ 3 PEOPLE) TO TRANSFER TO A CHAIR?
A: Score as “2” and not as “4”

Q: FOR STANDING >60 SECONDS, DOES THIS DURATION NEED TO BE 60 CONSECUTIVE SECONDS… OR IF THEY STAND TWICE, EACH FOR 35 SECONDS, DOES THIS HAVE THEM MEET THIS HLM LEVEL?
A: Score based on cumulative performance during a session of care. A session consists of the patient performing mobility intervention without interruption of care, but can include rest breaks.

Q: FOR WALKING, IS THE DISTANCE THE FURTHEST DISTANCE WALKED WITHOUT A SEATED REST BREAK, OR IS IT CUMULATIVE DISTANCE WALKED DURING A PT SESSION?
A: Score based on cumulative performance during a session of care. A session consists of the patient performing mobility intervention without interruption of care, but can include rest breaks.