

## What MAPLe scores mean

The Method for Assigning Priority Levels (MAPLe) is a tool used by health care professionals to prioritize clients' needs and to appropriately allocate home care resources and placement in long-term care facilities.

**Low** Clients are generally independent, without physical disabilities, and with only minor cognitive loss. There are no problems with behaviour, the home environment, medication, or skin ulcers. Some limited home care support may be needed because of early losses of function in limited areas.

**Mild** Clients need only a light level of care due to some problems with instrumental activities of daily living (e.g., housework, transportation) or loss of physical stamina.

**Moderate** Clients are beginning to show impairments in individual functioning that may be a threat to their independence, such as problems in the home environment, difficulty managing medications, or physical disability combined with mild cognitive impairment.

**High** Clients are experiencing more complex problems, including challenging behaviour or physical disability combined with cognitive impairment. These people have elevated risks of nursing home placement and caregiver distress.

**Very high** Clients have impairments in multiple areas of function that have a pronounced impact on their ability to remain independent in the community. These include factors such as physical disability, cognitive impairment, falls, challenging behaviour, and wandering. Rates of nursing home placement and caregiver distress are highest in this group.

Health Council of Canada. (2012). *Seniors in need, caregivers in distress: What are the home care priorities for seniors in Canada?* Toronto: Health Council of Canada.