

# The Australia-modified Karnofsky Performance Scale (AKPS)

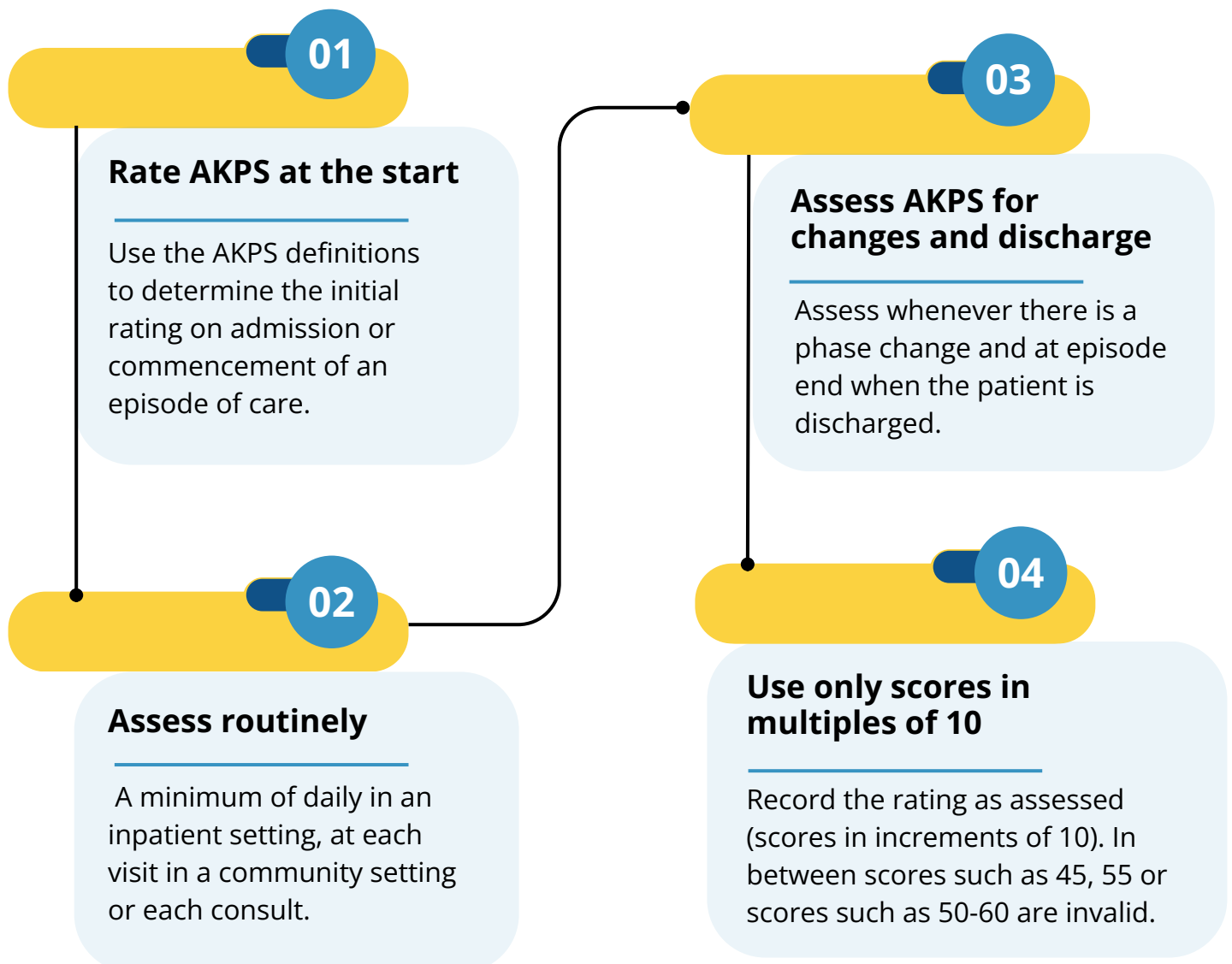
The Australia-modified Karnofsky Performance Scale (AKPS) is a measure of the patient's overall performance status or ability to perform their activities of daily living.

It is a single score between 10 and 100 assigned by a clinician based on observations of a patient's ability to perform common tasks relating to activity, work and self-care.

A score of 100 signifies normal physical abilities with no evidence of disease.

Decreasing numbers indicate a reduced performance status.

## How to assess AKPS



## AKPS ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

## SCORE

Normal; no complaints; no evidence of disease	100
Able to carry on normal activity; minor sign of symptoms of disease	90
Normal activity with effort; some signs or symptoms of disease	80
Cares for self; unable to carry on normal activity or to do active work	70
Able to care for most needs; but requires occasional assistance	60
Considerable assistance and frequent medical care required	50
In bed more than 50% of the time	40
Almost completely bedfast	30
Totally bedfast and requiring extensive nursing care by professionals and/or family	20
Comatose or barely rousable	10
Dead	0

## Examples of questions

Have there been any changes today with the patient's ability to attend to activities of daily living?

Is the patient requiring more physical care today?

How much time is the patient actually spending in bed?

Permission granted by Australian Health Services Research Institute; University of Wollongong; Palliative Care Outcomes Collaboration (PCOC)

Abernethy AP, Shelby-James T, Fazekas BS, Woods D, Currow DC. [The Australia-modified Karnofsky Performance Status \(AKPS\) scale: A revised scale for contemporary palliative care clinical practice \[ISRCTN81117481\]](#). BMC Palliat Care. 2005 Nov 12;4:7.