

Tool 12: The Abbreviated Mental Test

The Abbreviated Mental Test is a commonly used screening tool in the UK, to identify cognitive impairment in older people. The tool on its own does not diagnose that a person has delirium* or dementia but results will suggest that cognitive impairment is present and that further examination is required. The Abbreviated Mental Test can also be used over the course of a residents stay to monitor improvement or deterioration in their cognitive function. It can also be used following a fall to identify a change in cognitive function.

Score 1 point for each correct answer (no half marks)

Final score 0–3 is suggestive of severe impairment; 4–7 moderate impairment; 8 and above is suggestive of normal cognitive function.

Resident's name:

Abbreviated mental test

Age	
Time (to nearest hour)	
Address for recall at end of test - this should be repeated by the patient to ensure it has been heard correctly: 42 West Street	
Year	
Name of hospital	
Recognition of two persons (doctor, nurse, etc.)	
Date of birth	
Year of First World War	
Name of present Monarch	
Count backwards 20–1	

Total	
Score: (Normal 8–10, moderate impairment 5–7, severe impairment 0–4)	

* Delirium is sudden severe confusion and rapid changes in brain function that occur with physical or mental illness.