# Spinal Cord Injury Pressure Ulcer Scale (SCIPUS)

## Assessment Overview

### Assessment Area

**ICF Domain:**
- Body Function

**Subcategory:**
- Functions of the Skin

### Summary

The Spinal Cord Injury Pressure Ulcer Scale (SCIPUS) is a clinician-administered measure developed to assess the risk for pressure ulcer development for individuals with SCI who are in a rehabilitation centre. Rating is based on personal knowledge of the client or chart review. Blood tests are required if tests for diabetes, albumin and hemocrit are not already part of the patient’s medical record.

### You Will Need

| Length: | 15 items |
| Scoring: | By adding domain scores together a summary score (0-25) is calculated. Lower scores indicate better prognosis. |

### Availability


**Languages:** English

## Assessment Interpretability

### Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

### Statistical Error

Not established in SCI

### Typical Values

**Threshold Values:**
Score of ≥ 6 has been suggested to indicate risk for pressure ulcer development.

(Salzberg et al. 1996: n=219, 217 male, traumatic SCI, mean (SD) time from injury to last follow up = 17.2 (12.1) years)
## Measurement Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Validity – <strong>Low</strong> to <strong>Moderate</strong></th>
<th>Reliability – <strong>High</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderate</strong> correlation with stage of first pressure ulcer:</td>
<td><strong>High</strong> Inter-rater Reliability:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Correlation = 0.34</td>
<td>ICC = 0.91</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Moderate** correlation with number of pressure ulcers:

Correlation = 0.34

(Salzberg et al., 1999; N=226, 188 male, acute traumatic SCI, within 30 days of admission)

**Low** accuracy of “high risk” categorization (cut-off scores of ≥ 6, ≥ 7, ≥ 8):

Area Under Curve < 0.70

(Delparte et al., 2015; N=759, 509 male, mixed injury types, mean (SD) time since injury: 84.9 (379.7) days)

**Number of studies reporting validity data:** 3

| **Number of studies reporting reliability data:** 1 |

## Responsiveness

### Floor/Ceiling Effect:

Not established in SCI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect Size:</th>
<th><strong>Number of studies reporting responsiveness data:</strong> 0</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not established in SCI</td>
<td></td>
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