

## The Norton Pressure Sore Risk-Assessment Scale Scoring System

The **Norton Scoring system**, shown below, and created in England in 1962, has been the first pressure sore risk evaluation scale to be created, back in 1962, and for this it is now criticized in the wake of the results of modern research. Its ease of use, however, makes it still widely used today.

To evaluate the Norton Rating for a certain patient look at the tables below and add up the values beside each parameter which apply to the patient. The total sum is the Norton Rating (NR) for that patient and may vary from 20 (minimum risk) to 5 (maximum risk).

(Indicatively, a Norton Rating below 9 means Very High Risk, 10 to 13 means High Risk, 14 to 17 medium risk and above 18 means low risk)

<b>Physical Condition</b>	Good	4
	Fair	3
	Poor	2
	Very Bad	1
<b>Mental Condition</b>	Alert	4
	Apathetic	3
	Confused	2
	Stuporous	1
<b>Activity</b>	Ambulant	4
	Walks with help	3
	Chairbound	2
	Bedfast	1
<b>Mobility</b>	Full	4
	Slightly Impaired	3
	Very Limited	2
	Immobile	1
<b>Incontinence</b>	None	4
	Occasional	3
	Usually Urinary	2
	Urinary and Fecal	1

Generally, the risk factor is coded this way:

Greater than 18	Low Risk
Between 18 and 14	Medium risk
Between 14 and 10	High Risk
Lesser than 10	Very High Risk

Another rating system getting more and more popularity is the **Braden Scale**, created in the USA, more recent and precise than the Norton scale, which evaluates factors such as sensory perception, skin wetness, nutrition and such.