

The Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia was designed to assess signs and symptoms of major depression in people with cognitive impairment.

Elements	Details
Time to Administer	30 - 40 minutes
Type	Standardized Assessment Tool > eForm and Print Form versions
Setting	For use in all health care sectors.
Administration	<p>Scores are determined by a combination of prior observation and two interviews: 20 minutes with the caregiver and 10 minutes with the patient. All symptoms (occurring on a regular, persistent basis only) are rated for severity in three grades:</p> <p>0 = absent 1 = mild or intermittent 2 = severe</p> <p>No score is given if the interviewer is unable to evaluate the symptom.</p> <p>The administration and scoring guidelines should be read, and the assessor should be familiar with the instrument before attempting the Cornell. The guidelines provide detailed information about how to ask each question and the meaning of the questions. The answers should be based on symptoms from the week prior to the interview.</p>
Interpretation	Depressive symptoms are suggested by a total score of 8 or more.
Reference	<p>Alexopoulos, G.S. (1988) Cornell Scale for Depression in Dementia. <i>Biological Psychiatry</i>, 23(3), p.271-284. http://www.scalesandmeasures.net/files/files/The%20Cornell%20Scale%20for%20Depression%20in%20Dementia.pdf</p>