

## The Rating Scale for Aggressive Behaviour in the Elderly (RAGE)

Patel V & Hope RA (1992) *A rating scale for assessment of aggression in the elderly—the RAGE*. *Psychological Medicine*. Vol.22, No. 1, pp 211-221.

Name of rater:

Status in ward (e.g. nurse, aide):

Date:

Name of patient (resident, ratee):

Age:

Sex: Male/Female

### Rater Instructions

The aim of this scale is to measure aggressive behaviours in the elderly, ranging from simply being uncooperative or resisting help to actual physical violence. There are numerous explanations for such behaviours. However, it is **important not** to be concerned with these reasons, but **only with the actual behaviour**. Thus it is essential for you (the rater) to be totally objective in the rating, taking care not to interpret the patient's motives.

- Essential: Be objective in reporting.
- A rater can be any member of the ward staff involved in day-to-day care of the patient. Keeping in mind the importance of the rater having a 3 day observation period.

### Important

- Do not overlook minor behaviours.
- Do not judge the intention of the patient—ratee. Aggression does not connote any desire or intention to hurt.
- “All” behaviours be noted and recorded in order to be thorough and representative of the patient's clinical state.

### Source of information

This includes, besides personal observations, referral to ward notes, checklists and discussions with other members of the ward staff.

**Duration of observation: Over the past 3 days only.**

### The rating system

Most items are rated on a frequency basis, i.e. how often the individual behaviour occurred over the past 3 days, as follows:

0 = never

1 = at least once in the past 3 days

2 = at least once every day in the past 3 days

3 = more than once every day in the past 3 days

Some of the items are rated differently, and in such cases, the scoring system is described along with the item.

Please answer the items by circling the appropriate number next to it.

Continued

## **RAGE Scale**

Has the "patient" (resident, ratee, etc.) in the past 3 days...

- |                                                                                             |         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. been demanding or argumentative                                                          | 0 1 2 3 |
| 2. shouted, yelled, or screamed?                                                            | 0 1 2 3 |
| 3. sworn or used abusive language                                                           | 0 1 2 3 |
| 4. disobeyed ward rules, e.g. deliberately<br>passed urine outside the commode?             | 0 1 2 3 |
| 5. been uncooperative or resisted help, e.g. while<br>being given a bath or medication?     | 0 1 2 3 |
| 6. been generally in a bad mood, irritable or<br>quick to fly off the handle?               | 0 1 2 3 |
| 7. been critical, sarcastic or derogatory,<br>e.g. saying someone is stupid or incompetent? | 0 1 2 3 |
| 8. been impatient or got angry if something does<br>not suit him/her?                       | 0 1 2 3 |
| 9. threatened to harm or made statements to<br>scare others?                                | 0 1 2 3 |
| 10. indulged in antisocial acts, e.g. deliberately<br>stealing food or tripping someone?    | 0 1 2 3 |
| 11. pushed or shoved others?                                                                | 0 1 2 3 |
| 12. destroyed property or thrown things around<br>angrily, e.g. towels, medicines?          | 0 1 2 3 |
| 13. been angry with him/herself?                                                            | 0 1 2 3 |
| 14. attempted to kick anyone?                                                               | 0 1 2 3 |
| 15. attempted to hit others?                                                                | 0 1 2 3 |
| 16. attempted to bite, scratch, spit at or pinch<br>others?                                 | 0 1 2 3 |
| 17. used an object (such as a towel or<br>walking stick) to lash out or hurt someone?       | 0 1 2 3 |

In the past 3 days, has the patient inflicted any injury..

18. on him/herself?

19. on others

0 = no

1 = mild, e.g. scratch

2 = moderate, .e.g.. a bruise

3 = sever, e.g. a fracture

20. Has the patient in the past 3 days been required to be placed under sedation or in isolation or in physical restraints, in order to control his/her aggressiveness?

0 = no

1 = yes

21. Taking all factors into consideration, do you consider the patients behaviour in the last 3 days to have been aggressive?

0 = not at all

1 = mildly

2 = moderately

3 = severely

**Total Score = \_\_\_\_\_**