

Understanding EDSS

Evaluating Disability Progression in MS

WHAT IS EDSS?

The Kurtzke Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS)

- Standard assessment tool for **quantifying disability** in **MS** and **monitoring changes** in disability over time

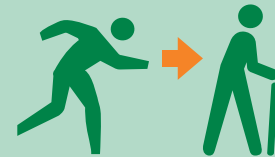
WHY IT MATTERS

- Sustained increases in disability** are often a **signal of disease progression** in MS
 - Some patients are diagnosed with more active forms of the disease, meaning their disease may progress more rapidly
- Physicians use **disability measurement** as one way to **track the course of a patient's disease**
- As MS disease progresses, as measured by EDSS, patients and physicians may take a more active treatment approach

HOW IT WORKS

- Scale ranges from **0** to **10** in half-point increments
- Scoring is based on a neurological examination of Functional Systems (FS): **pyramidal, cerebellar, brainstem, sensory, bowel and bladder, visual, cerebral** (or mental), and **gait**

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF CHANGES IN EDSS SCORES



A **move** on the scale may mean the difference between **working a full day** and **being unable to work**; **walking unassisted** and **using a crutch**; **maintaining independence** and **requiring aid**.

An **increase** in EDSS indicates **worsening** of disability



A **decrease** in EDSS score suggests improvement in ability (or **reduction in disability**)



THE KURTZKE EXPANDED DISABILITY STATUS SCALE (EDSS)

EDSS steps **1.0** to **4.5** generally refer to people with MS who are ambulatory

EDSS steps **5.0** to **9.5** generally refer to loss of walking ability and impairment of daily activities

