

AMA Criteria for Impairment Arising from Disturbances in Consciousness or Awareness

Overview: The level of impairment associated with disturbances in the level of consciousness or awareness can be estimated based on the AMA criteria.

Parameters:

(1) changes in level of consciousness or awareness

(2) limitation in performance of activities of daily living (ADL)

Alteration in Level of Consciousness or Awareness	Limitation in ADL	Percent Whole Person Impairment
none	none	0%
brief repetitive or persistent alteration of state of consciousness	minimal	0 – 14%
brief repetitive or persistent alteration of state of consciousness	moderate	15 – 39%
prolonged alteration of state of consciousness	severe	40 – 69%
irreversible coma or semicoma requiring artificial support	incapacitated (completely dependent)	70 – 90%

References:

Cocchiarella L Andersson GBJ (editors). Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment Fifth Edition. American Medical Association. 2001. (Table 13-2 page 309)