

DISABILITY ASSESSMENTS: SUPPORTING CARE RECIPIENTS WITH FUNCTIONAL DISABILITIES TO ACCESS FINANCIAL SUPPORT

by Agency for Integrated Care

As highlighted by the Ministry of Health, Singapore will be a “super aged” society by 2026 where at least 21% of our population will be aged 65 and above. To this end, several multi-pronged strategies are being implemented in partnership with relevant stakeholders across and beyond the healthcare sector to support our seniors in the community.

Healthier SG places great importance on the role of GPs holistically managing the health of their enrolled residents, including their functional health. As individuals continue to age, there will be a point in time when they experience physical decline, leading to reduction in functional abilities. These individuals may require assistance for their everyday needs. With cost of care increasing as Singaporeans age and grow frail, there are, fortunately, available long-term care schemes in place to provide some of the needed financial support.

Frequently Asked Questions about Functional Assessments

Who can conduct functional assessments/fill out a functional assessment report?

All Singapore Medical Council-registered doctors are approved assessors and may fill out a functional assessment report. As first points-of-care for regular patients and Healthier SG enrollees, GPs are highly encouraged to support their patients with functional assessments where needed and to recommend schemes that care recipients and/or caregivers can benefit from. Registered nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists may also conduct functional assessments.

How is the functional assessment report used?

The functional assessment report only needs to be filled out once to be used to apply for several schemes. Assessors will assess care recipients on their needs for assistance with Activities of Daily Living (ADLs), a set of six basic self-care tasks that most individuals should be able to carry out without assistance. GPs may document the completion of the functional assessment report in their casenotes or retain a copy for their reference and check with their patients regarding the applied schemes at the next appointment.

Where can GPs obtain a copy of the functional assessment report?

The functional assessment report can be downloaded at <https://for.sg/functional-assessment-report/>.

How much should GPs charge for functional assessments?

There are currently no guidelines on the charges for completing functional assessment reports. GPs typically charge for cost recovery or align the charges to their consultation fees. As a reference, polyclinics and public hospitals are charging about \$40.

How long does a functional assessment typically take?



A functional assessment should typically take less than half an hour to complete.





Where can GPs find out more about disability schemes and services or the functional assessment report?

GPs may contact their AIC account manager for more information. They may also visit <https://supportgowhere.life.gov.sg/categories/disability> for more information on schemes and services for individuals with disabilities.

Schemes to support care recipients with functional disabilities and/or their caregivers

Care recipients who permanently require assistance with at least 3 ADLs may benefit from the following schemes:

SCHEME	BENEFITS	ELIGIBILITY	QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION
PIONEER GENERATION DISABILITY ASSISTANCE SCHEME	Monthly cash payouts of \$100 to help with expenses.	Pioneer Generation resident living in Singapore.	
HOME CAREGIVING GRANT	Monthly cash \$250 or \$400 per month for caregiving expenses	<p>Care recipient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident (with a parent, child or spouse who is a Singapore Citizen) • Must not be residing in a long-term care institution (e.g. nursing home) <p>Household must be means-tested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Household monthly income per person must be \$2,800 or less • Annual value of property for household without income is \$21,000 or less • Those with multiple properties will receive the lower payout of \$250 per month 	

SCHEME	BENEFITS	ELIGIBILITY	QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION
CAREGIVER TRAINING GRANT	<p>Supports eligible caregivers by allowing them to attend approved courses to better care for their loved ones. The grant is distributed annually and tied to the individual care recipient and not to the number of caregivers per care recipient.</p> <p>From April 2024 onwards, eligible beneficiaries will start off with a \$400 grant. Each year, there will be a \$200 top up, and unused monies can be carried forward for one year, with the monies for each care recipient capped at \$400.</p>	<p>Caregiver must be the main person in charge of caring for the care recipient, have completed a pre-approved training course and received a certificate of attendance if there is one.</p> <p>Care recipient must be aged 65 years and above, or have a disability as certified by a Singapore registered doctor, nurse or physio-/occupational therapist, or is currently receiving services from a Social Service Agency.</p>	
ENHANCEMENT FOR ACTIVE SENIORS	<p>Up to 95% subsidised installation of improvements to make flats more elderly-friendly and improve mobility and comfort for elderly residents, such as installation of grab bars, ramps and slip-resistant treatment to floors.</p>	<p>Singaporean flat owner with at least one member in the household aged 65 years or older, or aged between 60 and 64 years who requires assistance with at least 1 ADL.</p>	
MIGRANT DOMESTIC WORKER LEVY CONCESSION	<p>Monthly migrant domestic worker concessionary levy of \$60 (instead of \$300).</p> <p>Each household is eligible for up to two levy concessions, caring for two loved ones at any one time.</p>	<p>Migrant domestic worker needs to reside at the same address as the employer, who must be either the care recipient or a family member living at the same address as the care recipient.</p> <p>Care recipient must be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident (with a parent, child or spouse who is a Singapore Citizen).</p>	
PUBLIC TRANSPORT CONCESSION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES	<p>Up to 55% subsidy for adult public transport fares.</p> <p>Option to purchase monthly public transport concession pass at \$58 per month for unlimited travel on train and basic bus services.</p> <p>No additional fares for distance travelled beyond 7.2km.</p>	<p>Recipient must be a Singapore Citizen or Permanent Resident below 60 years of age and certified to have one or more of the following disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A physical disability ▪ A visual impairment ▪ A hearing impairment ▪ Autism spectrum disorder ▪ Intellectual disability 	
SPECIAL NEEDS SAVINGS SCHEME	<p>Enables a parent to nominate an eligible child with special needs/disabilities to receive regular monthly payouts of \$250 or more from the parent's CPF upon the parent's demise.</p> <p>If upon the nominating parent's demise, his/her CPF savings is insufficient to support a year's worth of payout, the CPF savings will be disbursed as a lump sum to the nominee with special needs.</p>	<p>The child with special needs should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Require assistance with at least 1 ADL, or ▪ Have attended or is attending a Special Education school 	