MDGuidelines Durations Tool
Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Durations tool?

The Durations tool, which replaces Duration Views, helps manage patient cases by presenting return-to-activity timeframes for ill and injured individuals in a simplified, interactive dashboard. You can quickly see how long it takes someone to recover from a condition or procedure, guide patient care and set recovery expectations, and determine when a case needs additional support.

Why are you changing Duration Views?

With simplified language, integrated content, and expanded functionalities like bookmarking and copying to clipboard, the new Durations tool streamlines case management and empowers you to make informed recommendations on a patient's path to recovery.

When will the Durations tool be available?

September 30, 2024. At that time the Duration Views tool will be retired.

What do the Early, Expected, and Evaluate terms mean?

These terms replace the physiological minimum, optimum, and maximum labels. They represent uncomplicated cases and depend on activity level in most cases.

- **Early return** (physiological minimum): represents the minimum recovery time most individuals require to return to activity or work at the same performance level as prior to injury, illness, or surgery.

- **Expected return** (physiological optimum): represents the point in time when most individuals are likely to be able to return to activity, assuming optimal management and no significant complications/comorbidities.

- **Evaluate return** (physiological maximum): represents the point in time when additional case information should be requested to determine if/when the individual may be able to return to activity.

What does "Real World Average" mean?

This represents the population median including cases of varying complexity and care management. It is a statistical average calculated using MDGuidelines' proprietary database of injury and illness claims.

What does "Analytic Prediction" mean?

You can calculate a return-to-activity analytic prediction using case-specific factors like age and comorbid conditions based on MDGuidelines' predictive modeling algorithm.

How should I use the different duration values?

We recommend *managing towards* the Expected return value while keeping the Early and Evaluate return durations in mind as the case progresses. The Real World Average and Analytic Prediction values can be used to *benchmark* cases and help measure case performance.

How should I pick an activity level?

On your first use of the new tool, you'll be asked to set a "default" activity level. You can adjust the activity level at any time using the interactive slider or change the default using the gear icon. If you don't know which activity level to select, open the Job Title Explorer tool by clicking the badge icon, searching a job title, and applying the activity level to the speedometer.

How do I find related information about a particular health topic?

Click the "Related Topics" dropdown above the Activity Level slider. You can find additional details for each duration value by selecting the "Read More" link in the lower right area of the page. In the Duration Table view, you can also view the *Length of Disability* and *Factors Influencing Duration* content, toggling between different topics as applicable.

Does the timeline show calendar days or business days?

The timeline represents calendar days, inclusive of the start date. For example, if the selected start date is Tuesday, October 1 and the expected return is 7 days, the expected return-to-activity date would be Tuesday, October 8.

I use the MDGuidelines duration APIs – will my access be changing?

No, the duration APIs are not affected by this update.

Where can I find the duration tables?

Duration tables can be accessed beneath the speedometer display. You can choose to view a single table at a time or toggle to the Compare Tables view to see all tables/treatments associated with a diagnosis or procedure.

How do the new duration tables differ from the old ones?

There are two major changes reflected in the new duration tables: a) new terminology: Early, Expected, Evaluate, Real World Average, Analytic Prediction; b) rows and columns are swapped for ease of reference by activity level.

Have the duration values changed?

No, there are no changes to duration value related to this update. Physiological durations (Early Return/Expected Return/Evaluate Return) continue to be updated twice a year, typically in the spring and fall, and population durations (Real World Average and Analytic Prediction) are updated once a year, typically in the summer.