

Table 1 Functional domains and stages

ALSFRS domain	Item	Score	Functional score*
Movement (walking/self-care) [†]	8 Walking	4 Normal	0
		3 Early ambulation difficulties	
		2 Walks with assistance	
	<i>OR</i> 6 Dressing and hygiene	1 Non-ambulatory functional movement only	1
		0 No purposeful leg movement	
		4 Normal function	
Swallowing	3 Swallowing	3 Independent and complete self-care with effort or decreased efficiency	0
		2 Intermittent assistance or substitute methods	
		1 Needs attendant for self-care	
		0 Total dependence	
	4 Normal eating habits	1	
3 Early eating problems; occasional choking			
2 Dietary consistency changes			
1 Needs supplemental tube feeding			
0 NPO (exclusively parenteral or enteral feeding)			
Communicating [†]	1 Speech	4 Normal speech processes	0
		3 Detectable speech with disturbances	
		2 Intelligible with repeating	
	<i>AND</i> 4 Handwriting	1 Speech combined with non-vocal communication	1
		0 Loss of useful speech	
		4 Normal	
Breathing [†]	10 Dyspnea	3 Slow or sloppy; all words are legible	0
		2 Not all words are legible	
		1 Able to grip pen but unable to write	
	<i>OR</i> 12 Respiratory insufficiency	0 Unable to grip pen	1
		4 None	
		3 Occurs when walking	
ALS-MITOS	Stage	2 Occurs with one or more of: eating, bathing, dressing	0
		1 Occurs at rest, difficulty breathing when either sitting or lying	
		0 Significant difficulty, considering using mechanical respiratory support	
		4 None	
		3 Intermittent use of NIPPV	
ALS-MITOS	Stage	2 Continuous use of NIPPV during the night	1
		1 Continuous use of NIPPV during the night and day	
		0 Invasive mechanical ventilation by intubation or tracheostomy	
		Functional domains lost	
		0 None	
		1 domain	
		2 domains	
		3 domains	
		4 domains	
		5 Death	

*Staging determined by the sum of functional score of 1 for each domain.

[†]Where two items were used, scoring was based on either or both item scores as indicated.

ALSFRS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Functional Rating Scale; ALS-MITOS, Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Milano-Torino Staging; NIPPV, nasal intermittent positive pressure ventilation; NPO, nothing by mouth.