

Physical Frailty Phenotype

Scoring: ≥3/5 criteria met indicates frailty; 1-2/5 indicates pre-or-intermediate frailty; 0/5 indicates non-frail.

Frailty Criterion	Definition	
Unintentional	Meets criteria for weight loss if:	
Weight loss	Lost >5% body weight unintentionally in last year, or BMI <18.5kg/m ²	
	Equipment: scale for body weight; stadiometer for height.	
Exhaustion	Meets criteria for exhaustion if answer:	
	Felt unusually tired or unusually weak 'all of the time' or 'most of the time' or reported energy level was ≤3, using	
	the following questions.	
	1.a. "In the past month, on the average, have you been feeling unusually tired during the day?"	
	Yes 🛛 No 🗅 Refused 🗅 Don't Know 🗆	
	1.b. "If yes, have you been feeling unusually tired:"	
	□ All of the time	
	□ Most of the time	
	□ Some of the time	
	Refused / Don't Know	
	2.a. "In the past month, on the average, have you felt unusually weak?"	
	Yes 🛛 No 🗆 Refused 🗆 Don't Know 🗆	
	2.b." If yes, have you been feeling weak:"	
	□ All of the time	
	□ Most of the time	
	□ Some of the time	
	Refused / Don't Know	
	3. "Using the scale below, please rate your usual energy level on a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 is no	
	energy and 10 is the most energy that you have ever had. Please give a number between 0 and 10 that	
	describes your usual energy level while a	
Slowness	Meets criteria for slow walking speed over 4 meters if:	
	Men	Women
	≤0.65m/s for height ≤173 cm (68 inches)	≤0.65m/s for height ≤159cm (63 inches)
	≤0.76m/s for height >173 cm (68 inches)	≤0.76m/s for height >159cm (63 inches)
	Equipment: 4-meter course, a stopwatch.	
	Participant attempts to walk 4-meter length t	wice at his or her usual pace. Use average of 2 trials.
Low Activity	Meets criteria for low activity if:	
Level	Men: <128 kcal of physical expenditure	Women: <90 kcal of physical expenditure on activity scale per wee
	on activity scale per week (6 items ¹)	(6 items ¹)
Weakness	Meets criteria for grip strength weakness if:	
	Men	Women
	≤29 kg for BMI ≤24	≤17 kg for BMI ≤23
	≤30 kg for BMI 24.1–26	≤17.3 kg for BMI 23.1–26
	≤30 kg for BMI 26.1–28	≤18 kg for BMI 26.1–29
	≤32 kg for BMI >28	≤21 kg for BMI >29
	Equipment: (Jamar) hand dynamometer.	
	Participant attempts to squeeze the dynamometer maximally 3 times with the dominant hand. Use maximal score	
	with dominant hand.	
¹ Physical activity i		Activities Questionnaire, asking about walking (w = 3.5), strenuous
		dancing (w = 5.5), bowling (w = 3.0), and exercise (w = 4.5).

per session (minutes) * Body Weight (kg)/60, where w is the task-specific MET intensity score.

References:

Fried LP, Tangen CM, Walston J, et al. Frailty in older adults: evidence for a phenotype. J Gerontol Med Sci. 2001;56A:M146–M156.

Bandeen-Roche, Xue QL, Ferrucci L, et al, Phenotype of Frailty: Characterization in the Women's Health and Aging Studies. J Gerontol Med Sci. 2006; 61A(3):262-266.