

Rancho I

No Response, Total Assistance. Completely unresponsive to any form of stimuli, including noxious stimuli. Appears to be in deep sleep. Eyes do not open spontaneously.

Rancho II

Generalized Response, Total Assistance. Eyes open spontaneously or in response to external stimuli. First responses are generally to noxious/painful stimuli. Responses are limited in number and meaning. Responses are delayed, inconsistent, nonspecific to applied stimuli, and non-purposeful. Gross body movements and vocalizations may be observed.

Rancho III

Localized Response, Total Assistance. Responses may be observed more often in presence of familiar individuals such as family members. Responses are inconsistent, but specific to stimuli (e.g., limb withdrawal to noxious stimuli). Basic orientation to stimuli is noted (e.g., head turn toward voice/noise; cries out to applied noxious stimuli; follows moving object within visual field). Command following is delayed, inconsistent, but response is relevant to command (e.g., extending limb, closing eyes). Vague body awareness may be observed in the form of resisting restraints or responding to discomfort (e.g., pulling tubes/catheters).

Rancho IV

Confused-Agitated, Maximal Assistance. Increased level of arousal and heightened state of motor activity. Behavior is mostly in response to internal cues, states and discomfort. Behavior is frequently bizarre, non-goal directed, and non-purposeful relative to the surrounding environment. Aggression, combative or flight behavior can be observed. Unable to discriminate among individuals and objects, resulting in behavior occurring irrespective of individuals present or events in the immediate surroundings. Verbalizations frequently incoherent and inappropriate to context of discussion. Attention is severely limited. Cooperation is poor. No carry-over of day-to-day events. Mood is labile and not related to environmental events. Motor activity is frequently restless.

Rancho V

Confused-Inappropriate, Maximal Assistance. Responds fairly consistently to simple commands or converses fairly easily on topics of familiarity. Automatic social behaviors are present and appropriate for very brief periods of time. Requires cues or external assistance with increased complexity in commands or instructions. Responses may remain non-purposeful, random and fragmented in absence of external structure. Activities of daily living are performed with assistance and supervision. Unable to self-initiate and requires cues to engage in life-sustaining activities. Verbalizations are frequently inappropriate to the context of discussion, with confabulation triggered by surrounding events. Attention is characterized by ease in distraction, requiring frequent redirection and supervision of activities. Memory remains impaired for carry-over from day-to-day. Confuses recent events with events that occurred prior to injury. Wandering is seen with ambulatory patients. Agitation may continue to be observed, but only in response to external stimuli (e.g., restricted mobility).

Rancho VI

Confused-Appropriate, Moderate Assistance. Level of tolerance for discomfort is improved and verbalization of specific discomfort is noted. Follows simple commands and instructions consistently. Demonstrates appropriate use of objects. Able to carry-over newly learned behaviors for self-care activities. Goal-directed behavior is observed, but remains dependent upon others for initiation and completion. Fails to anticipate consequences of behaviors and actions. Recall of preinjury data is more accurate and reliable. Recall of day-to-day events remains problematic due to memory deficits, but responses are always appropriate to context of discussion. Wandering is reduced and orientation to place/time is inconsistent. Typically able to remain involved in self-care activities for 20-30 minutes. Vague recognition of others.

Rancho VII

Automatic-Appropriate, Minimal Assistance. Performs basic self-care and daily activities in automatic, robotic-style. Oriented to self, place; oriented to time with cues. Able to recall and carry-over information from day-to day, but recall is vague and shallow. Recall of remote personal information is reliable. Limited awareness of difficulties in performance. Lacks insight into implications of limitations. Future planning is generally unrealistic. Typically independent in self-care activities, but requires assistance/supervision for home and community activities. Begins to initiate social and recreational activities. Although knowledge base is typically preserved, judgment and use of knowledge base are impaired. Overestimates abilities. No forethought of decisions, actions.

Rancho VIII

Purposeful-Appropriate, Standby Assistance. Consistently oriented to self/place/time. Independently attends to and completes familiar tasks for 1 hour in distracting environment. Reliably recalls past events and integrates with current events. Uses memory aids with minimal assistance and following reminders. Able to initiate and complete tasks once learned. Aware and acknowledges limitations and impact on task completion, which in turn may be exhibited as depressed mood, irritable affect, low frustration tolerance, argumentativeness, or expressions of anger. Able to identify consequences with minimal assistance. Perspective on situations remains self-centered, but is able to acknowledge needs and feelings of others. Able to take corrective social actions for inappropriate behaviors with minimal assistance.

Rancho IX

Purposeful-Appropriate, Standby assistance upon request. Two-hour tolerance for multiple tasks. Independently completes multiple tasks. Continues to rely on memory aids and asks for assistance to record information, but only when needed. Completes tasks independently or aware of when assistance is needed and requests help. May ask for assistance with decision-making involving consequences. Continues to require assistance to anticipate impact of limitations on task completion. Accurately estimates abilities. Acknowledges the needs of others. Self-monitors during social situations. Mood and affect may continue to fluctuate with experiences and self-awareness.

Rancho X

Purposeful-Appropriate, Modified Independence. Able to multitask in a variety of environments, but mental endurance may remain reduced. Self-initiates and implements memory aids. Extended time may be necessary to independently complete home and community activities. Anticipates impact of limitations and takes steps to minimize impact. Independently adjusts to task demands. Automatically responds appropriately to needs of others. Mood and affect may fluctuate with fatigue or when under emotional stress. Social behaviors are consistently appropriate.

Developed by Cynthia L. Beaufieu, Ph.D., ABPP-CN

Source: (1979). A family guide to rehabilitation of the traumatic brain injury patients. In Rehabilitation of the head injured adult: Comprehensive physical management. Downey, CA: Professional Staff Association of Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, Inc

Source: (1998). Chris Hagen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP.