

Timed Up and Go (TUG) Test

- **Purpose:** The TUG is a simple and widely used clinical test to measure functional mobility and gait, requiring minimal equipment (a chair and a stopwatch). It assesses the time it takes an individual to stand up from a chair, walk a distance of 3 meters (about 10 feet), turn around, walk back to the chair, and sit down again.
- **Scoring and Interpretation:** The test is timed in seconds. A cutoff of **13.5 seconds or longer** is often used to indicate a higher risk of falling in community-dwelling older adults. Variations exist, such as the TUG Manual (carrying a glass of water) or TUG Cognitive (counting backwards), to test dual-task ability.

Timed Up and Go (TUG) Test^{1,2}

1. Equipment: arm chair, tape measure, tape, stop watch.
2. Begin the test with the subject sitting correctly in a chair with arms, the subject's back should resting on the back of the chair. The chair should be stable and positioned such that it will not move when the subject moves from sitting to standing.
3. Place a piece of tape or other marker on the floor 3 meters away from the chair so that it is easily seen by the subject.
4. Instructions : "On the word **GO** you will stand up, walk to the line on the floor, turn around and walk back to the chair and sit down. Walk at your regular pace.
5. Start timing on the word "**GO**" and stop timing when the subject is seated again correctly in the chair with their back resting on the back of the chair.
6. The subject wears their regular footwear, may use any gait aid that they normally use during ambulation, but may not be assisted by another person. There is no time limit. They may stop and rest (but not sit down) if they need to.
7. Normal healthy elderly usually complete the task in ten seconds or less. Very frail or weak elderly with poor mobility may take 2 minutes or more.
8. The subject should be given a practice trial that is not timed before testing.
9. Results correlate with gait speed, balance, functional level, the ability to go out, and can follow change over time.
10. Interpretation
 - < 10 seconds = normal
 - < 20 seconds = good mobility, can go out alone, mobile without a gait aid.
 - < 30 seconds = problems, cannot go outside alone, requires a gait aid.

A score of more than or equal to fourteen seconds has been shown to indicate high risk of falls.

1. Podsiadlo D, Richardson S. *The Time Up & Go: A Test of Basic Functional Mobility for Frail Elderly Persons*. Journal of the American Geriatrics Society 1991; 39(2): 142-148

2. Shumway-Cook A, Brauer S, Woolacott M. *Predicting the Probability for Falls in Community-Dwelling Older Adults Using the Timed Up & Go Test*. Physical Therapy 2000 Vol 80(9): 896-903.

Saskatoon Falls Prevention Consortium, Falls Screening and Referral Algorithm, TUG. Saskatoon Falls Prevention consortium, June, 2005

Timed “Up and Go” Test

Name:

DoB:

Activities	Comments & Date	
Stand Up		
Stand Momentarily		
Walk 3 Meters		
Turn		
Walk 3 Meters		
Turn		
Sit Down		
Time to Complete the Task		
Signature of the Assessor		