

Scope and Severity

Scope and Severity is a system of rating the seriousness of deficiencies. A "deficiency" is a regulatory requirement that a survey finds is not being met. Scope and Severity is a national system used by all state survey agencies and the Health Care Financing Administration when conducting nursing home Medicare and Medicaid certification surveys. For each deficiency, the surveyor determines the level of harm to the resident or resident(s) involved and the scope of the problem within the nursing home. The surveyor then assigns an alphabetical scope and severity value, A through L, to the deficiency. "A" is the least serious and "L" is the most serious rating. The scope and severity matrix is an integral part of how nursing home scores are calculated in the scoring system.

	<i>Scope of the Deficiency</i>		
<i>Severity of the Deficiency</i>	<u>Isolated</u>	<u>Pattern</u>	<u>Widespread</u>
Immediate jeopardy to resident health or safety	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>
Actual harm that is not immediate jeopardy	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>
No actual harm with potential for more than minimal harm that is not immediate jeopardy	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>
No actual harm with potential for minimal harm	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>