

Severity of Atrial Fibrillation (SAF) Scale

Use this document to assess and record the symptoms and functionality of patients with atrial fibrillation (AF).

Patient Name: _____

➤ Step 1 – Symptoms

Identify the presence of the following symptoms (check all that apply):

- Palpitation
- Dyspnea
- Dizziness, presyncope, or syncope
- Chest pain
- Weakness or fatigue
- Other: _____

➤ Step 2 – Association

Is AF, when present, associated with the above-listed symptoms? For example: Ascertain if any of the above symptoms are present during AF and likely caused by AF (as opposed to some other cause).

- Yes
- No

➤ Step 3 – Functionality

Do the identified symptoms associated with AF (or the treatment of AF) affect the patient's functionality (subjective quality of life)? Refer to the table below for descriptions your patient might give.

- Yes
- No

Based on the responses above, assign an SAF Class as defined by the table below.

Mark Box	SAF Class	Definition
	Class 0	Asymptomatic with respect to AF
	Class 1	Symptoms attributable to AF have minimal effect on patient's general QOL. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimal and/or infrequent symptoms, or • single episode of AF without syncope or heart failure
	Class 2	Symptoms attributable to AF have a minor effect on patient's general QOL. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mild awareness of symptoms in patients with persistent/permanent AF, or • rare episodes (e.g. less than a few per year) in patients with paroxysmal or intermittent AF
	Class 3	Symptoms attributable to AF have a moderate effect on patient's general QOL. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • moderate awareness of symptoms on most days in patients with persistent/permanent AF, or • more common episodes (e.g. more than every few months) or more severe symptoms, or both, in patients with paroxysmal or intermittent AF
	Class 4	Symptoms attributable to AF have a severe effect on patient's general QOL. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very unpleasant symptoms in patients with persistent/paroxysmal AF and/or • frequent and highly symptomatic episodes in patients with paroxysmal or intermittent AF and/or • syncope thought to be due to AF and/or • congestive heart failure secondary to AF

Source: This document was adapted from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Severity of Atrial Fibrillation (SAF) Scale, published in P. Dorian, P. G. Guerra, C. R. Kerr, et al. *Validation of a New Simple Scale to Measure Symptoms in Atrial Fibrillation: The Canadian Cardiovascular Society Severity in Atrial Fibrillation Scale*. *Circulation Arrhythmia and Electrophysiology*, 2009, 2;218-224. Available at <http://circep.ahajournals.org/content/2/3/218.full>.