

IN A NUTSHELL

The knowledge platform for general practitioners

CURB-65 and CRB-65 Score

CURB-65 or CRB-65 is an acronym used to estimate the severity of community-acquired pneumonia. The parameters considered are Confusion, Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN, optional), Respiratory rate, Blood pressure, and Age (? 65 years). The CRB-65 score omits BUN, but the sensitivity is still comparable to that of the CURB-65 score.

Confusion

No Yes (+1)

Elevated blood urea nitrogen (BUN)

BUN > 7 mmol/l or > 19 mg/dl

Unknown No Yes (+1)

Tachypnea

Respiratory rate ? 30/min

No Yes (+1)

Hypotension

Blood pressure systolic < 90 mmHg or diastolic ? 60 mmHg

No Yes (+1)

Age ? 65 years

No Yes (+1)

Score:

30-day mortality:

Interpretation

CURB-65 score 30-day mortality

0 0.6 %

1 2.7 %

2 6.8 %

3 14 %

4-5 27.8 %

Recommendation

Outpatient treatment possible

Admission recommended

Admission with intensive medical care recommended

CRB-65 Score 30-day mortality

Recommendation

CRB-65 Score	30-day mortality	Recommendation
0	0.9 %	Outpatient treatment possible
1	5.2 %	Admission recommended
2	12 %	
3-4	31.2 %	Admission with intensive medical care recommended

References

1. Lim WS, van der Eerden MM, Laing R et al. Defining community acquired pneumonia severity on presentation to hospital: an international derivation and validation study. *Thorax* 2003; 58: 377-382
2. Aujesky D, Auble TE, Yealy DM et al. Prospective comparison of three validated prediction rules for prognosis in community-acquired pneumonia. *Am J Med* 2005; 118: 384-392