

SLUMS Documentation Cheat Sheet

Reviewed by the BastionGPT Clinical Advisory Board · August 2026 · Reproduces no items, stimuli, or scoring instructions

The SLUMS is an 11-item, 30-point cognitive screen interpreted through two education tables (high-school: 27 to 30 normal, 21 to 26 mild neurocognitive disorder band, 1 to 20 dementia band; less than high-school: 25 to 30, 20 to 24, 1 to 19). It screens, never diagnoses, is free for professional paper use with copyright retained by SLU, and is required by no US, Canadian, or Australian law. Defensible charting names the form and access date, records education and the table applied, keeps the band a screening band, documents validity, and closes the loop.

Form, localization, and access date no version number on the form

Do: official SLU form and localization, access date, in person on paper, trained administrator; no phone or video, no wording changes.

Pitfall: "SLUMS 24" with no form, language, or mode; a video administration charted as standard.

Education recorded, table named 26 changes bands with the table

Do: grade or years, credential, country and language of schooling; name the table; if a GED or foreign credential makes it uncertain, chart both bands and rest on history and function.

Pitfall: "26/30, normal" with no education line; a GED silently recoded as high school.

Total out of 30, in the printed band, as a screen no percent, no pass or fail

Do: "23/30; high-school table; printed 21-26 mild neurocognitive disorder screening band"; a zero has no printed band (bands begin at 1) and is described, not assigned.

Pitfall: "mild neurocognitive disorder per SLUMS"; "failed the SLUMS"; a zero forced into a 0-20 band.

Administration conditions and validity stop rather than adapt

Do: setting, alertness, language and interpreter, lenses and hearing aids adequate, pain, mood, illness, sedation, deviations, all items completed; valid / not interpretable.

Pitfall: a precise total beside inadequate hearing or a missing localization; a partial score generated.

Pattern in prose, no domain subscores structure is not settled

Do: "greater difficulty with delayed retrieval and clock construction"; no item content, no item-group scores charted as domains.

Pitfall: "memory 9/13, visuospatial 3/5" as domain scores; answers written into the note.

Screen, not diagnosis, with function beside it collateral overrides false reassurance

Do: explicit screen-not-diagnosis line; informant concerns, change from baseline, medications, delirium and mood, ADLs and IADLs, safety.

Pitfall: a normal band used to close the question despite reported decline; a low band written up as dementia.

Referral chain, owner, and the record the number is not the note

Do: reversible contributors, workup, fuller assessment or referral, capacity or driving evaluation if indicated, owner and date, completed form scanned; declined = offered + declined + alternative, never a score.

Pitfall: a positive screen that ends at a number; a refusal entered as 0/30.

Before the note is signed

- ☐ Form, localization, access date, mode, and trained administrator named
- ☐ Education recorded in detail; interpretation table named
- ☐ Total out of 30 in the printed band, kept a screening band
- ☐ Validity conditions charted; no partial or remote score
- ☐ Pattern in prose; no domain subscores or item content
- ☐ Screen-not-diagnosis line; function and collateral recorded
- ☐ Loop closed: plan, owner, date; form scanned; declined charted as declined

Drafting with AI

Give it the facts: form and localization, education and table, conditions, total, pattern, informant report, function, prior results, plan.

"Draft SLUMS documentation: official US-English form, in person, nurse-administered; 10 years schooling, less-than-high-school table; 26/30, printed normal band (mild band under the other table); spouse reports six months of medication errors; assessment visit 08/26."

Never paste patient-identifying information into consumer AI tools. BastionGPT is HIPAA-compliant with a signed BAA on every plan.

0 to 30

11 items; bands begin at 1

Two education tables

26 is normal in one, mild in the other

Screening bands

not diagnoses; SLU says so

Free, not public domain

SLU retains copyright; paper use no fee

SLUMS Documentation Template

Copy or print for your practice · Adapt fields to your organization's, payer's and jurisdiction's documentation requirements. Contains no test content.

Setting: _____ Patient (initials): _____ Date: _____ Clinician: _____

Form + localization + access date: _____ Administered by (trained) + indication: _____

Education and table

Table applied: high-school / less than high-school · highest grade or years · credential · country and language of schooling · GED or foreign credential noted

Conditions and validity

Setting · alertness · language and interpreter · lenses and hearing aids adequate · pain, mood, illness, sedation · deviations · all items completed · valid / not interpretable (no partial score)

Score and printed band

Total ___/30 · printed band for the named table (normal / mild neurocognitive disorder / dementia) · other table's band if education uncertain · zero: described, not assigned

Pattern (prose)

Relative strengths and difficulties in own words · no item content · no domain subscores

Function, collateral, and safety

Informant concerns · change from baseline · medications, finances, appointments, driving · ADLs and IADLs · delirium and mood · reversible contributors

Interpretation and referral chain

Screen, not a diagnosis, incapacity, or driving determination · workup · fuller assessment or referral · capacity or driving evaluation if indicated · owner and date

Record and declined or invalid attempt

Completed form scanned · declined: offered, declined, alternative assessment, never a score · invalid: reason and reassessment plan

Clinician (name and credentials): _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____