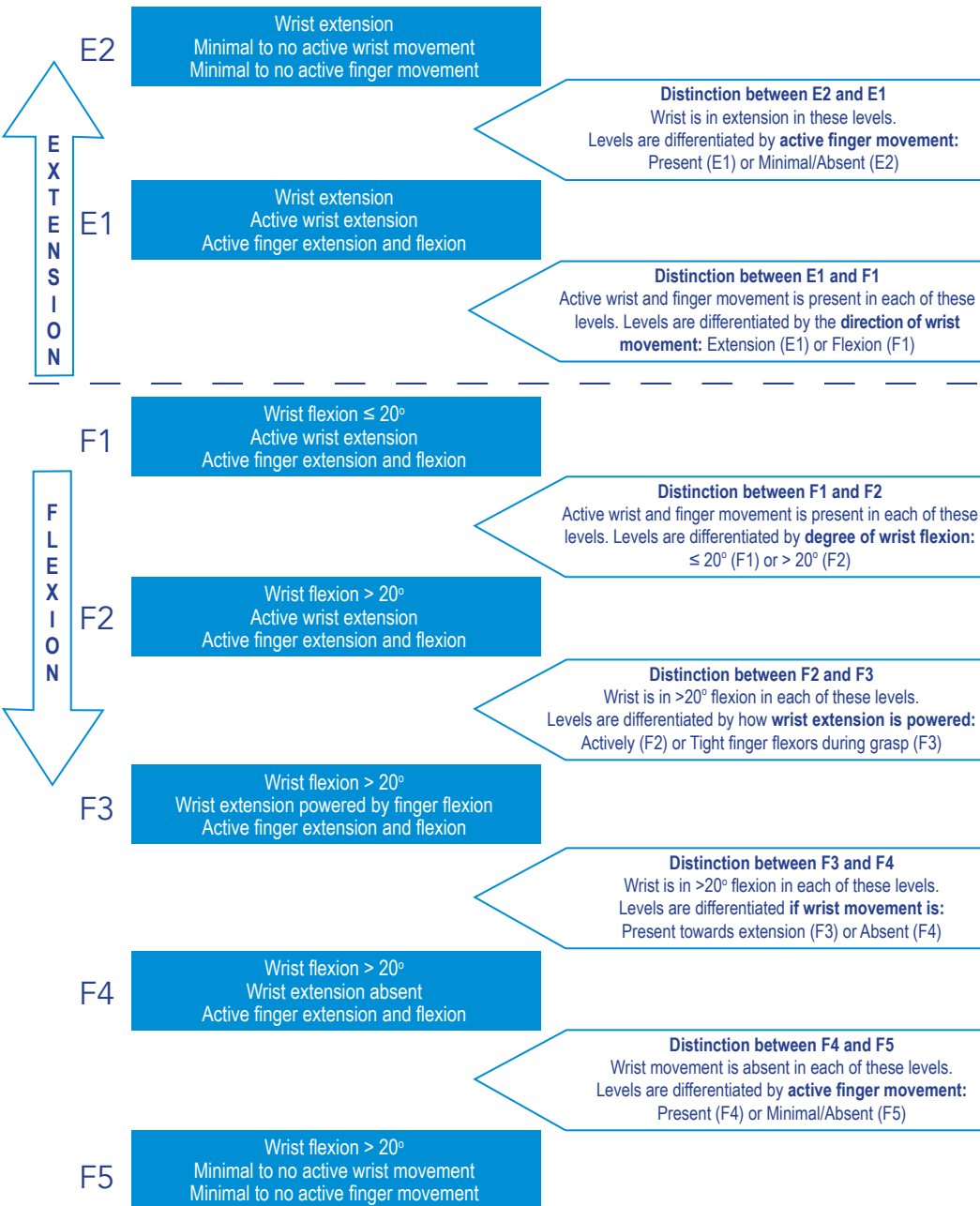


Distinction between classification levels



Note: Even though the success or type of grip is not needed for classification, success of picking up the object is usually observed at levels E1, F1, F2 and F3.

The object is usually presented to the client in levels E2 and F5.

To be classified as F3, the movement into passive wrist extension must be independently generated by the force of the client's own hand on the object they are attempting to grasp and release.

The Neurological Hand Deformity Classification (NHDC)

Quick Guide

Purposes

The purposes of classifying hand deformity using the NHDC are:

- To categorise wrist and hand movement in action.
- To assist identification of structures driving hand deformity.
- To guide clinical assessment.
- To enhance clinical decision-making regarding the use of upper limb orthoses as part of the overall management of upper limb impairment.

Classification of hand deformity is determined by **observing the client's wrist and hand in action** during movement towards and attempted grasp and release of objects. The classification is based upon the **analysis of active wrist and finger movement in relation to the extended or flexed position of the wrist.**

Important Points to Remember

- It is the observation of wrist and hand movement in action that is important.
- Objects are used to elicit movement.
- Objects, may be substituted with similar objects provided the objects used do elicit the movement required to classify hand deformity.
- An extended or flexed wrist position is taken from the neutral wrist position of 0° .
- The success or type of grip observed is not relevant for classification.

Wrist and finger movement considerations of the NHDC

