**Table 4. Communication functions**

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| **Communication level according to Communication Matrix** | **Communication function according to Communication Matrix** | **Nr** | **Label** | **Definition** | **Studies** |
| ***Level 1:***  ***Pre-intentional behaviour*** | Social | **1** | Searching behaviour | Searching for a person or object in the environment. | 15 |
| Obtain | **2** | Expressing components related to physical functioning | Communication regarding the physical functioning of the person. | 10, 15 |
| Refuse | **3** | Expressing pain/discomfort | Physiological expression of pain. | 10, 13, 15 |
| ***Level 2: Intentional behaviour*** | Social | **4** | Drawing attention | Focusing the communication partner’s attention on a specific object, person or event. | 3 |
| Obtain | **5** | Expressing affect | This refers to the individual’s ability to communicate positive or negative emotions and feelings (e.g., happy, sad, anger, fear) | 1, 2, 3, 9, 15, 18 |
| ***Level 3: Unconventional communication*** | Obtain | **6** | Comprehending messages (basic) | Understanding the intent of a message produced by a communication partner. | 11, 12, 14 |
| **7** | Choice making | Conveying personal preferences to the communication partner. | 5, 11 |
| **8** | Expressing wants and needs (basic) | Expressing wants and needs. | 4, 12, 15 |
| **9** | Basic or beginning communication support | Using unaided communication to represent basic messages. | 4, 5, 12, 15 |
| ***Level 4:***  ***Conventional communication*** | Social | **10** | Greeting | Following social etiquette rules such as saying “hello” or “goodbye”. | 1, 3, 15 |
| **11** | Engagement in interaction | Attending to the communication partner through active listening and body engagement. | 1, 5 |
| **12** | Turn taking | Reciprocity of turns with communication partners. | 1, 10, 16 |
| Information | **13** | Functional use of objects | Knowing the function of an object e.g., using a comb. | 5, 7, 15 |
| Obtain | **14** | Requesting information by asking questions | Requiring the communication partner to provide more information. | 1, 4, 15 |
| **15** | Responding (basic) | This refers to a voluntary response to a communication partner’s initiation to communicate. | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15 |
| ***Level 5:***  ***Concrete communication*** | Social | **16** | Imitation | Imitating an action, object or person. | 5, 11 |
| Information | **17** | Naming | Labelling an object, person or event in the person’s environment. | 7, 16 |
| **18** | Commenting | Providing comments during the conversation. | 1 |
| **19** | Answering questions | Responding to the communication partner’s questions (yes/no or general). | 1, 2, 3 |
| Obtain | **20** | Requesting a turn | When the person with an acquired neurological injury initiates the interaction or requests to take part in the conversation. | 16 |
| **21** | Requesting participation | When the person with an acquired neurological injury is requesting reciprocal interaction from a communication partner. | 3, 15, 16 |
| ***Level 6:***  ***Abstract communication*** | Information | **22** | Providing clarification | Elaborating or providing more information based on the communication partner’s request. | 1, 4 |
| **23** | Describing | Describing an object, event or person to the communication partner. | 5 |
| Social | **24** | Modelling | Demonstrating what is required of the communication partner. | 3, 5 |
| ***Level 7:***  ***Linguistic*** | Information | **25** | Narrative | Telling a story. | 1, 2, 3, 6, 11, 14, 17 |
| Refuse | **26** | Arguing | Debating the point of view of the person with an acquired neurological injury. | 1 |
| Social | **27** | Leading the conversation | Leading the conversation by discussing topics related to the concerns or interests of the person with an acquired neurological injury. | 3, 16 |
| **28** | Observing social etiquette | Using words that are socially appropriate or inappropriate. | 1 |
| **29** | Termination | When the person with an acquired neurological injury withdraws from the conversation. | 16 |
| **30** | Interrupting | The person with an acquired neurological injury interrupts the conversation to provide their point of view. | 1 |
| Obtain | **31** | Conversational pause | The speaker takes a rest, hesitates, or temporarily stops. | 16 |