

CLINIC INTERVIEW

1. Introduction

This section contains information about the in-clinic interview. This interview is comprised of two sections: functional status and ancestry. Specific information about the questions asked in the clinic interview is provided in this section. Please read the “Interviewing Guidelines” protocol for more information about general interview conduct.

2. Functional Status

Q1-5. These questions ask about difficulty in accomplishing selected activities. One frequent area of confusion regarding functional status measures is determining the degree of difficulty for activities that the subject accomplished with help or with special aids. Therefore, we ask about difficulty when the respondent performs the activity **by himself and without using any special aids.**

It is important that the participant answers the questions about the degree of difficulty for the 5 specific activities when he does **NOT** use any aids or receive help.

Be sure the participant understands that the questions are about difficulty he has by himself and without the use of special aids. Aids include a cane, walker, artificial limb, special eating appliances, special reaching appliances, grab bars, automatic lifts, etc.

Customization: How you ask the functional status questions can be tailored somewhat to the participant. If a participant is obviously using a cane, say “without your cane, would you have difficulty....”.

If a participant says that he can do an activity but only very slowly, ask if he has difficulty doing the activity at a speed that he would consider normal for his age. If he does have difficulty at a normal speed, then mark ‘yes.’

Pain vs. difficulty: If a participant says he has pain but not difficulty, ask if pain makes the task more difficult or impossible to do. If so, then this is ‘difficulty.’ If he doesn’t do something because of pain, then this should be interpreted as a form of difficulty.

For each question, the participant should determine if he has difficulty doing the activity listed. If he answers YES, he will need to indicate the level of difficulty and then indicate if the difficulty is due to a health or physical problem. If he answers NO, then you can skip to the next question. If he answers I DON’T DO IT, he should indicate if this is because of a health or physical problem.

Function Questions:

For multiple activity questions, like housework, where the level of difficulty may vary across activities use the following rules of thumb:

1. If she doesn't do one or two activities for nonhealth reasons (e.g. wash windows) but has no difficulty with most others, then code as "no difficulty".
2. If she is unable to do some activities but has no difficulty with most others, code as "some difficulty".
3. If she is unable to do some activities and has difficulty with most others, code as "much difficulty".
4. If she is unable to do most activities, code as "unable".

If difficulty (answers "Yes") with an activity ask about the degree of difficulty and then the reason for the difficulty (health or physical problem).

If a participant reports that they do not do an activity ask if this is because of a health or physical problem.

3. Ancestry

Most people in United States have ancestors who came from other parts of the world. Some people have mixed ethnic backgrounds. These questions were taken from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) ethnicity questions: long form.

Show the participant the Ancestry Worksheet.

Ask the participant "What is your natural father's ethnic background?"

Ask the participant "What is your natural mother's ethnic background?"

If only one ethnicity is given, record under the primary ethnicity on the data collection form. Record none given for the secondary ethnicity.

If more than one ethnicity is given, probe for the primary ethnicity. Record both the primary and secondary ethnicities. Only one primary ethnicity is allowed. More than one secondary ethnicities are allowed. If the participant cannot name one ethnicity as the primary, record the ethnicity mentioned first as the primary and any other ethnicities as the secondary.

If a participant gives "Pennsylvania Dutch" as the ancestry, this should be recorded as "German".