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## RELIABILITY STUDIES

### 1. Introduction

We will be conducting several small reliability studies at Visit 6. Some will be done at all clinics, others will be done only at one clinic.

The primary goal is to evaluate inter-rater variability, since this is one of the greatest sources of variability in this type of research. Thus, where appropriate, the tests should be administered by a different examiner at least 10 minutes but no more than 30 minutes apart. Only reliability of the self-administered questionnaire is relatively independent of examiner influences, although a different examiner should review the second version for completeness.

Time frame: Ideally, most of the reliability studies will be completed within the first 6 months of the study so that if we need to make adjustments in our protocol we still have the bulk of the visits left. We will delay the Sahara US somewhat so that examiners can get comfortable with this new measure before testing reliability.

Data: In all cases, enter the data from the first administration of the questionnaire, exam, measure, etc. only. Do not enter the data from the second administration. Send the completed forms for the second administration to the designated person at the Coordinating Center (see below). We will enter the data and make the comparisons here at the Coordinating Center.

We will conduct reliability tests on the following measures:

- 1) Self-administered questionnaire - all clinics
- 2) Arterialized blood gas - all clinics
- 3) Functional status questionnaire - Mon Valley (Pitt)
- 4) Usual and rapid gait speed - Minneapolis
- 5) Chair stand test - Portland
- 6) Cognitive function - Baltimore
- 7) Vision tests (still finalizing)
- 8) Sahara Ultrasound - all clinics.

The Coordinating Center will supply you all with a second set of forms on which to record the reliability data.

### 2. Studies to be done at all clinics

#### Self-administered questionnaire

Each clinic should give a second self-administered questionnaire to 15 participants to complete by themselves while they are in the clinic. Do not administer the FFQ twice.

Only enter the data from the first questionnaire. Send the completed second questionnaire to Ruth Lipschutz at the Coordinating Center.

#### Arterialized blood gas

Each clinic should repeat this measure, using the other hand and a different phlebotomist, on 10 willing participants.

Send the second set of data to Ruth Lipschutz at the Coordinating Center (415/597-9323).

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### 3. Studies to be done at individual clinics

For the measure at your clinic (to be determined at training), each clinic will administer the test twice on 30 participants. A different examiner should administer the second test. Please wait at least 10 minutes, but no more than 30 minutes, before repeating the test.

Send the second set of data to Ruth Lipschutz at the Coordinating Center.

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