



## Psychosocial Tools and Resources for Assessing Patients

The following are some resources and tools that can aid renal social workers in the assessment of patients:

**The Kidney Disease Quality of Life survey (KDQOL)** is a disease-specific survey that includes a generic functioning and well-being survey plus questions related to kidney disease like burden of illness, satisfaction with care, sexual functioning, and more.

You can find a couple of versions of the survey and associated scoring templates online at the KDQOL website (both are free, but you must register to download them) at <http://www.gim.med.ucla.edu/kdqol/>.

Medical Education Institute also developed a web-based system that helps providers score, report, and manage KDQOL-36™ survey answers—and assess patients' health-related quality of life. The web-based system and additional information is available at <http://www.kdqol-complete.org/>.

**The SF-36** is a Quality of Life (QOL) instrument available at <http://www.sf-36.org/>. This website has both the SF-36 and SF-12 samples. Before administering these forms, registration and licensing fees are required.

**The Geriatric Depression Scale (short form)** is available at <http://www.stanford.edu/~yesavage/GDS.html> and can be downloaded for your use free of charge. It is easy to score, and scores can be prorated to remove the somatic components such as energy, appetite, etc. A Spanish version is also available.

**The Beck Depression Inventory Fast Screen (BDI-FS)** for medical patients is copyrighted and is available for a fee. The BDI Fast Screen was constructed to reduce the number of false positives for depression in patients with known biological, medical or substance abuse problems. Learn more at [http://www.innovact.co.za/Beck%20Depression%20Inventory-FastScreen%20\(BDI-FastScreen\).htm](http://www.innovact.co.za/Beck%20Depression%20Inventory-FastScreen%20(BDI-FastScreen).htm).

**The Physicians Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9)** is copyrighted, and is available in English and Spanish. To read and agree to the terms of usage, locate scoring instructions and register for download go to <http://www.depression-primarycare.org/clinicians/toolkits/> or <http://www.phqscreeners.com/>.

**The Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale-Short Form (CESD-SF)** QOL tool is used to measure current depressive symptoms. Items on the short forms contain simple vocabulary in short sentences. The CESD-SF can be administered by self-report or interview. A pdf version is available for download at <http://patienteducation.stanford.edu/research/cesd10.pdf>.

**The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT)** is a free assessment tool developed by the UN Whole Health Organization. The assessment tool may be administered as an interview or as a questionnaire. The tool comes in both Spanish and English. A pdf version of the tool and manual is available for download at [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2001/WHO\\_MSD\\_MSB\\_01.6a.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hq/2001/WHO_MSD_MSB_01.6a.pdf).

**The Council of Nephrology Social Workers (CNSW)** has a listserv where social workers can join and

request peer input on difficult cases: <http://www.kidney.org/professionals/CNSW/>.

**The PedsQL™ Measurement Model** is a modular approach to measuring health-related quality of life (HRQOL) in healthy children and adolescents and those with acute and chronic health conditions. The PedsQL™ Measurement Model integrates seamlessly both generic core scales and disease-specific modules into one measurement system. A PedsQL ESRD Module is under development. Information and the tool may be accessed at <http://www.pedsq.org/>.

**Aid To Capacity Evaluation (ACE)** is a tool to help clinicians systematically evaluate capacity when a patient is facing a medical decision. Information and the tool may be accessed at <http://www.jointcentreforbioethics.ca/tools/ace.shtml>.

**The International Transplant Nurses Society (ITNS)** maintains a comprehensive summary of instruments/tools that have been used with transplant subjects. Each summary contains the instrument/tool's name, and information about variables, populations, descriptions, reliability, validity, language, copyright, fees, sources, and references. The summary may be accessed at [http://itns.org/ITNS\\_research\\_resources.php](http://itns.org/ITNS_research_resources.php).

**Dialysis Quality of Dying Apgar** is a tool developed to determine a dialysis patient's quality of dying. You may access the tool at <http://www.promotingexcellence.org/tools/pe5705.html>.

For further information and assistance, contact:

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