

WOMEN'S INTERAGENCY HIV STUDY
QUESTION BY QUESTION SPECIFICATIONS
FORM 26: PSYCHOSOCIAL MEASURES

Obtain the date of the participant's previous **even-numbered** visit (i.e., the last visit at which the entire F26 was administered to the participant) and record it in question A6. Some sections of this form refer to a different time frame than the participant is used to from other interview forms. Since the entire F26 is currently administered only at even-numbered visits, all questions asking about occurrences during the time period since the participant's (MONTH) study visit will refer to the time period since the participant's last study visit during which F26 was administered (i.e., her last even-numbered study visit). The date of her last even-numbered study visit should be read aloud in the questions where (MONTH) appears. Please ensure that the participant is aware of the frame of reference for questions on this form. The participant should be reminded of the date [MONTH/DAY/YEAR], as needed, during the interview.

SECTION A: GENERAL INFORMATION

This section at the beginning of the form should be completed before administering the psychosocial exam. Record the actual time you began F26 in the space provided for "Time Module Began" and the actual time you ended the exam in the space denoted "Time Module Ended" on the last page of the form. Remember to use leading zeros. For example: 08:00.

Beginning with visit 19, the CES-D Depression Scale (Section C only) will be administered at every visit, while the entire form will continue to be administered only at even-numbered visits. Therefore, if the form is being administered at an odd-numbered visit, the interviewer should follow the skip patterns indicated in questions A8 and C21 so that only the CES-D is completed.

For even-numbered visits, begin the form by reading the introduction to the participant. Insert the date of the participant's last **even-numbered** visit (from question A6) into the introduction.

SECTION B: QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE

B1–B10: These questions contain a standardized scale to measure quality of life. Read each question and response category exactly as it is worded and circle the appropriate response. If the participant is hesitant, **PROBE** for a response by saying, "We are interested in your opinion— so, whatever it means to you." If the participant has difficulty deciding between answers, **PROBE** for an appropriate response by saying, "Which choice is closest?" or, "I can only circle one answer—which choice best reflects your experience?"

Some of the questions refer to specific time frames (such as in the past four weeks or since the participant was last administered F26), while others do not refer to a particular period of time. Please be aware of this both as you read the question and as you probe for an answer from the participant.

Many of the questions use the phrasing "in general" or "generally." When reading the questions, these words should be emphasized.

Some questions include phrases such as "bodily pain" that the participant might ask the interviewer to clarify. **PROBE** for an answer by saying, "We are interested in your opinion— so, whatever you consider to be bodily pain." This should be applied to all situations in which the participant is confused about a certain phrasing.

B7. **HAND PARTICIPANT RESPONSE CARD 13A.** This question has an introduction and four sections. First, read the introduction. Then ask the participant "How much does your health limit:" and insert each section.

- B8. This question has an introduction and eight sections (a–h). First, read the introduction and then ask the participant, “How much of the time during the past four weeks:” and insert each section.
- B10. If the participant has trouble deciding on an exact number, repeat the question stressing the phrase, “*Please tell me which number is closest.*” If the participant answers “5 and 1/2” or “between 4 and 5,” **PROBE** for an appropriate response by saying, “I can only record one choice. Of the numbers listed on the scale, which one would you choose?”

SECTION C: CES-D DEPRESSION SCALE

These questions (**C1–C20**) utilize a standardized scale to measure depression. All questions should be asked exactly as they are worded. If necessary, reiterate to the participant that we are interested in *her opinion*, in whatever way she understands the question. **PROBE** further by reminding her that there are no right or wrong answers. NOTE: The time frame for these questions is one week. The interviewer should emphasize the phrase “*during the past week*” as she reads each question.

HAND PARTICIPANT RESPONSE CARD 16. First, read the instructions at the top of page 5. Then read each question and each of the response choices *printed on the card*. Please read the *complete* list of response choices to the participant. As you proceed down the list of questions, the participant may begin to understand the nature of the questions and the scale. Use your judgment to decide if it will be necessary to read each response choice once the pattern has been established. If you have any doubt about the participant’s ability to answer the questions, read the response choices.

- C21. If the form is being administered at an odd-numbered visit (i.e., only CES-D is administered), circle “YES” for question **C21** and skip to question **H4**.

PROMPT: FOR CALIFORNIA SITES AND ALL PARTICIPANTS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE
READ: “Thank you very much for your responses; we have completed the interview” AND
SKIP TO H4. FOR ALL OTHER PARTICIPANTS, PROCEED TO SECTION F.

SECTION F: SEXUAL ABUSE

Dealing with disclosures of sexual abuse experiences can be an extremely painful and possibly traumatic experience. Participants who have had this experience may be at different stages of dealing with their own personal history of sexual abuse. Some may have buried memories of being victimized or are in the process of actively dealing with such a history that could result in deeply disturbing emotions while answering questions on the topic. For this reason, we have pared down the sexual abuse section and now only ask the most basic sexual abuse questions.

- F4. The key words in this question are “*now know.*”

SECTION G: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

This section deals with the participant’s experiences with physical abuse and coercive and controlling relationships. Like the questions dealing with sexual victimization, it is important to realize that a woman may have strong emotional feelings in answering these questions, yet she may also welcome an opportunity to talk about her experience. Another important issue is to be prepared to provide the appropriate resources for a woman who discloses a history of physical abuse and to assess the woman’s current situation in terms of her immediate physical safety.

The questions in this section capture physical abuse in the time frame since the participant was last administered the entire F26 (i.e., at the participant’s last even-numbered study visit), including threatening, intimidating and controlling behavior, the ability to negotiate for safer sex, and an assessment of her immediate physical safety. Reemphasize that the questions in this section deal with the time period from the participant’s last even-numbered visit until the present.

- G1–G7: Read the seed question, “Since your (MONTH) study visit, has a current or previous partner” first, and insert the appropriate question for subquestions **G1–G7**.

SECTION H: PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

The same care and concerns applied to reading Section G (described above in the beginning of Section G) should also be applied when reading the question in Section H, Physical Violence. Reemphasize that questions in this section deal with the time period from the participant's last even-numbered visit until the present.

At the end of the interview, be sure to link the participant with appropriate intervention or referral indicated by her responses during the interview.