

WOMEN'S INTERAGENCY HIV STUDY
QUESTION BY QUESTION SPECIFICATIONS
FORM IADL: Instrumental Activities of Daily Living

The Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) scale has been implemented in WIHS starting with Visit 38 (April 1, 2013) as part of Wave 3 of the Neurocognitive Battery. The instrument consists of approximately 20 items and takes about 10 minutes for the examiner to administer.

The IADL scale is designed to compare the participant's level of functioning now with their level of functioning at the time when they were able to function at their best. The items include common tasks such as housekeeping, managing finances, grocery shopping, cooking, bathing, and child care. For each item the participant will see four or five statements. They are to select the one statement that best describes their current functioning ("NOW") and the one statement that describes their best functioning ever ("BEST EVER").

We are interested in knowing what types of common tasks you are currently performing. We need to know about your ability levels:

Now (in the last month)

and

Your Best Ever (at what level were you able to perform the activity when you were functioning at your best)

The participant is asked first about their ability level "Now," and then asked about their "Best Ever" ability level. Only one statement can be selected from each list, and the "Best Ever" ability level can never be coded as being worse than their ability level "Now."

The participant should consider each function individually. For instance, she may be able to handle all of her bathing needs now and at her best ever. However, the same participant may need assistance in doing home repairs now, whereas she was able to handle them on her own at an earlier time in his life. This earlier time would be her best ever.

NOTE: For Question B15a, a participant with grown children who do not currently need care should respond "I do not have children or grandchildren" (code 1), and then proceed to Question B15b, which asks about "Best Ever" ability to care for children/grandchildren. If, for example, a participant responds to Question B15a, "I have grown children who do not need any care now, but if I had children or grandchildren, I am perfectly able to handle child care now," the interviewer should select "1" for Question B15a, and then ask Question B15b, for which the response would presumably be "2" ("at my best, I have been fully able to handle child care").

The IADL scale allows investigators to better distinguish between different levels of neurocognitive impairment. The instrument will also give investigators one other way to study how HIV affects the aging brain.

Information for Participants

What is the IADL scale, and what will it be used for?

The Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) scale consists of approximately 20 items which take about 10 minutes to complete. The IADL scale is designed to assess your current level of overall functioning, as well as your level of functioning when you were at your best. The items include common tasks such as housekeeping, managing finances, grocery shopping, cooking, bathing, and child care. The IADL scale will give researchers another way to study how HIV and other illnesses affect one's ability to carry out normal daily functions that are also associated with the process of aging.

What if I do not have any difficulty performing everyday tasks? What if my current functioning is the same as my best ever functioning?

In order for researchers to understand how daily functioning may be affected by HIV and other illnesses, they will also need to know what healthy individuals look like. Therefore your answers to the IADL scale are very important. You are able to select the same statement if it applies to both your current functioning and your best ever.

What if more than one statement applies to my current level of functioning, or my best ever functioning?

For each item you will see four or five statements. Please select the one statement that best fits what your current functioning is, and the one statement that best fits your best ever functioning level. You should select only one statement as it applies to "Now" and one statement as it applies to "Best Ever."

How long will it take to complete the IADL scale?

The first time you complete the IADL scale it will be administered by an examiner. It should take about 10 minutes to complete the 20 items. At future visits you will only need to answer questions about your ability level at the time of that visit and the questions should only take about 5 minutes to complete.