



PROMIS SCORING GUIDE: OVERVIEW

Scoring manuals are available for three sets of PROMIS instruments:

- Version 1.0 short forms
- Profile instruments
- Computerized adaptive testing (CAT)

Version 1.0 short forms were the first instruments developed from PROMIS item banks. Careful attention was paid to item content and the ability of the short form to measure the full range of the concept or ‘domain’ measured by the item bank. Domain experts independently reviewed short forms to give input on the relevance of each item. Psychometric properties and clinical input were considered together. With the exception of one physical function short form, which is 20 items in length, the version 1.0 short forms range in length from six to 10 items.

The profile instruments are a collection of profile short forms, where each form contains items from one of seven primary PROMIS domains (depression, anxiety, physical function, pain interference, fatigue, sleep disturbance, and satisfaction with participation in social roles). Profile short forms, which are four, six, and eight items in length, are meant to be administered together with other profile short forms from each of the other primary domains, thus generating a ‘profile’ of seven scores. There are three profile instruments: the PROMIS-29 profile instrument, so named because it contains 29 items, includes four items from each primary domain plus a single pain intensity rating; the PROMIS-43 profile instrument includes six items from each primary domain plus the pain intensity item; and the PROMIS-57 profile instrument includes eight items from each primary domain plus the pain intensity item. Each profile short form can also be administered independently.

Computerized adaptive testing (CAT) is a flexible, computer-driven assessment that can use any items in the item bank to measure each domain. CAT selects only those items that sharpen the estimate of a respondent’s score on the domain being measured. CAT length varies but usually includes four to seven items.

All PROMIS instruments are generated from item banks. The development of items for each domain’s item bank consisted of six phases: identification of items, item classification and selection, item review and revision, focus group input on domain coverage, cognitive interviews with individual items, and final revision before field testing. Identification of items refers to the systematic search for existing items in currently available scales. Item review and revision was conducted by domain experts who reviewed the wording of each item and revised as appropriate for conventions adopted by PROMIS. Focus groups were used to confirm domain definitions and to identify new areas of item development for future PROMIS item banks. Cognitive interviews were used to examine individual items. Items successfully screened through this process were sent to field testing and subjected to innovative scale construction procedures.¹ Final revisions were then made based on the compiled information.