

Generic Guidelines for Administering Dementia/Alzheimer's Scales

Values:

Seeking first to understand.
Treating the patient and carer with respect.
Treating the patient with dignity.

Competencies:

Active Listening
Open-ended questions
Preparation

Background:

Choosing an assessment tool

Assessment of older persons is more complicated than that of younger persons, because there is often more to assess.

Assessment is a means of identifying client characteristics. Translating assessment into action is still more an art than a science. User training, competence, and insight are necessary (Kane & Kane (2000), Assessing older persons,

Too often one encounters professionals who seem to begin with the measurement and work backward. Instead one must have in mind the use of the measure and likely circumstances for use.(Kane & Kane, p 3)

Outcome Measures can be classified into two basic groups:

- 1) Generic (across populations)
- 2) Condition specific (limited clinical context)

Function Assessment

No functional assessment tool is universally recognised as the "gold standard".in terms of range of activities included or performance indicators.

Selecting a functional assessment measure.

Selecting the best functional assessment measure depends on what goal or purpose is to be achieved. (p25)