**The Short Portable Mental Status Questionnaire**

**Original Citation** – Pfeiffer E. A short portable mental status questionnaire for the assessment of organic brain deficit in elderly patients. J Am Geriatr Soc. 1975; 23(10);433-441.

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**Price & Availability** – Available for download through instrument website. Printed in original citation.

**Brief Description of Instrument** – General assessment of mental status designed for use with an elderly population.

**Scale Format** – 10 items, short answer.

**Administration Technique** – Health provider administered.

**Scoring and Interpretation** – Count number of errors. 0-2 errors: normal mental functioning, 3-4 errors: mild cognitive functioning, 5-7 errors: moderate cognitive functioning, 8 or more errors: severe cognitive functioning.

**Factors and Norms** – Short term and long term memory, orientation to surroundings, knowledge of current events and the ability to perform mathematical tests. Standardized in elderly population.

**Test-retest Reliability** – Four week interval, outpatient population $r = 0.82$; institutional population $r = 0.83$.

**Construct Validity** – Agreement between moderate/severe impairment score with clinical
diagnoses of organic brain syndrome in outpatient population, Chi2 = 63.35, df = 1, p < .001; institutional population, Chi2 = 11.48, df = 1, p < .001.

Content & Face Validity – Items modified from existing instruments and clinicians assessments.

Strengths – Demonstrated reliability and validity. Can be used with patients considered "untestable" by other, more complex methods.

Limitations – General assessment, may need to be followed up with more specific test.

Notes for Consideration – Can be used with patients considered "untestable" by other, more complex methods.


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