

# WG Mental Health and Psychosocial Functioning Work Group Update

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**On behalf of the members of the workgroup**

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# Presentation Outline

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- Workgroup goals
- Workgroup name: Mental Health and Psychosocial functioning
- Recap of completed work
  - Analysis of Depression and Anxiety WG ES questions
  - Scoping literature review
- Inclusion of additional questions on psychosocial functioning
  - Selection of questions to be tested
  - Cognitive testing protocol
- Next steps and discussion

# Workgroup goals

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The WG was established at the 13th WG meeting in Amman

## Purpose

- Ensure adequate coverage of common and severe mental disorders in the WG functioning measures to include people at risk of participation restrictions resulting from psychosocial disability
- Conduct further analysis of WG ES Affect questions to maximize the use of these for including people with varying degrees of anxiety and depression
- Add further measures to the WG Extended set if coverage is not adequate for functional consequences

# Workgroup name

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- The initial name of the group was “Mental Health”
- At the 17<sup>th</sup> WG meeting it was changed to Mental health and Psychosocial functioning
- **Mental Health:** The analysis of the WG ES Affect questions; mental functions at body level in the ICF
- **Psychosocial functioning:** Including a group of people who have activity limitations resulting from a severe mental disorder – activity level in the ICF

# The work completed

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1. **Review the performance of the WG Affect** (anxiety and depression) measures in the Extended Set (relative to common scales used in surveys)
2. **Scoping literature review** on activity limitations, participation restrictions and environmental barriers commonly associated with common and severe mental disorders

# WG Extended Set Affect Questions: Depression

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1. How often do you feel depressed?

Daily / Weekly / Monthly / A few times a year / Never

2. Do you take medication for these feelings?

Yes / No

3. Thinking about the last time you felt depressed, how depressed did you feel?

A little / A lot / Somewhere in between a little and a lot

# WG Extended Set Affect Questions: **Anxiety**

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How often do you feel worried, nervous or anxious?

Daily / Weekly / Monthly / A few times a year / Never

2. Do you take medication for these feelings?

Yes / No

3. Thinking about the last time you felt worried, nervous or anxious, how would you describe the level of these feelings?

A little / A lot / Somewhere in between a little and a lot

# Review of Anxiety and Depression analysis

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## Analysis Sub-group members

✓ *Julie D. Weeks & Laura A. Pratt*  
National Center for Health Statistics, USA

✓ *Julie Bernier, Leanne Findlay, Dafna Kohen*  
Health Analysis Division, Statistics Canada

✓ *Islay Mactaggart*  
Disability and Global Health, LSHTM

## Dataset used

- U.S.A.: National Health Interview Survey 2012, 2015
- Canada: Canadian Community Health Survey (2012) Mental Health (2012)
- Cameroon (2013) & India (2014): London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) International Centre for Evidence in Disability (ICED) Building the Evidence in Disability Survey



# Questions addressed by the analysis subgroup

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(See related annotated presentation from 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in Sydney):

**Q1. Does the affect domain need to include both anxiety and depression?**

**Recommendation:** Yes, Include both anxiety and depression

**Q2. Does intensity information add anything over and above frequency?**

**Recommendation:** Yes, include both frequency and intensity questions

**Q3. Should we include the medication questions?**

**Recommendation:** Do not include the medication question in a composite score

**Q4. What should the cut points be, and how many categories should we include?**

**Recommendation:** For mental health-specific analyses, create four categories of depression and anxiety using WG AD cut-points

(slightly different to cut points from the WG ES overall analysis)

# Scoping review: Approach

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**Goal:** Identify the most common activities of everyday life affected by severe mental disorders

**Method:** Collected and reviewed over 80 articles in English

- ✓ 45 were excluded as not relevant (reporting on MH scale validation, about policy, not reporting clear activity limitation or participation restriction examples, etc.)
  
- ✓ 40 were reviewed as relevant:
  - Focused on common or severe mental illness
  - Described functional status directly related to the mental illness
  - Identified clear Activities of everyday life that are difficult for people with mental illness

Sub-group members: Hasheem Mannan, Marguerite Schneider, Elena De Palma

# Scoping review: main results

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1. **Domestic/household activities:** washing clothes, preparing food, daily routine
2. **Self-care:** washing self, carrying out daily routine
3. **Social functioning and relationships/Communication:** family, friends, community
4. **Communication:** Verbal fluency
5. **Memory and thinking** (Executive function, Attention difficulties, Verbal and visual memory)
6. **Controlling behaviour:** getting upset, conflict with others, misinterpretations, violent
7. **Mobility**
8. **Formal work**
9. **Informal work**
10. **Community Activities**

# Including psychosocial functioning questions

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- Criteria for question selection
- Selected questions
- Cognitive testing protocol
- Decision making – minimum set
- Next steps

# Criteria for question selection

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- Reflect difficulties in interpersonal interactions as a common activity limitation reported for a number of severe mental disorders
- Conceptually clear and focusing on basic activity limitations specific to people with psychosocial disability
- Use simple wording and response options
- Reflecting similar structure of questions to WG ES and SS so that the adaptation into the WG structure does not change the question substantially
- Avoid reference to role of environment
- Easy to translate
- Relevant for adults and adolescents
- Culturally sensitive and appropriate

# Selecting the questions

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- Review of existing questions
- Determine their suitability in terms of the criteria
- Phrasing the questions in WG format
  - Do you have difficulty...
- Response options:
  - no difficulty
  - some difficulty
  - a lot of difficulty
  - unable to do

## **Selected questions: (adapted from WHODAS 2)**

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- Do you have difficulty getting along with people who are close to you?
- Do you have difficulty dealing with people you do not know well?
- Do you have difficulty maintaining friendships?
- Do you have difficulty making new friends?
- Do you have difficulty controlling your emotions when you are around people?

## Selected questions: Adapted from Tenorio-Martínez et al 2009

- In your present state of health, do you have difficulty making new friends, without assistance?
- How does this compare with someone, just like yourself only without your health condition?
  - Same, a little different, very different, completely different



# Selected questions

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French survey (Disabilities and health survey, 2008)

- In everyday life, do you have difficulty forming relationships with other people?

Additional question

- Do you have difficulty controlling your behaviour when you are with other people?

# Cognitive testing: Goals

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- Assess respondents' interpretation of the questions
- Identify potential responses problems that could impact data quality
- Evaluate the cross-cultural equivalence of the questions
- Conclude on the performance of the selected questions and their suitability in including people with psychosocial disability. Some of these people could have already been counted in (included) with the existing questions and others not.

# Cognitive testing protocol: Participants

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- 10 - 30 participants –representing 3 groups:
  - People with a known severe mental disorder but no physical or sensory impairment
  - People with a known physical or sensory impairment
  - People without any known mental disorder or physical or sensory impairment.
- 18 years old and above
- Men and women

# Cognitive testing protocol : Structure of questionnaire

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- Socio-Demographic questions
- WG Short Set (6 questions)
- WG Extended Set
  - Cognition questions – 3 additional
  - Affect questions (excluding questions on medication use)
    - Anxiety – 2 questions
    - Depression – 2 questions
- Psychosocial disability questions with cognitive testing probes

# Aspects to consider in analysis

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- What the respondent was thinking about when responding and providing examples to substantiate this
- Pattern of responses and interpretations for the selected questions across the 3 groups of respondents
- Need for repetition of the question or some parts
- Requests for clarification and any qualified responses provided
- Difficulty in using response options

# Including psychosocial functioning questions: Next steps

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- Conduct cognitive testing in a number of countries
  - *Volunteers ?*
- Analyse the testing
- Review the results and decide on one of the following:
  - Not to use the questions as they do not add any useful information
  - Revise the questions and conduct a new round of cognitive testing
  - Accept the questions
- Conduct field testing
- Decide on how to include the questions with existing WG sets
- Develop recommendations

# Conclusion

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- All this work will lead to the selection of a minimum set of questions that will be able to include people with psychosocial difficulties who are at risk of participation restrictions.
- Focus is primarily on people with severe mental disorders as those experiencing psychosocial difficulties rather than common mental disorders (Affect questions)

# WG Mental Health and Psychosocial Functioning Work Group

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Thank You!

**Questions and comments are welcome!**