

Notes on Scoring of the Pain in Older Adults Knowledge Survey

(POAKS)



The 24-item POAKS was developed to measure the knowledge of nursing and care staff about the experience, assessment and management of pain in older people (including people with dementia) for use in the residential aged care setting.

The POAKS was developed using the following method:

1. An initial item pool was developed through a review of the research literature and a modified Delphi technique which involved three rounds of national and international pain experts to reach consensus.
2. Initial testing of the psychometrics properties of the POAKS with 30 university employees which led to refinement and final wording of the items.
3. Testing of the psychometric properties of POAKS with 279 respondents established its content validity and internal consistency and supported its use as an instrument to measure knowledge about the experience, assessment and management of pain in older people.

The POAKS provides a basis for the development and implementation of educational interventions to address pain knowledge gaps that may impact on the quality of care provided.

Respondents can choose 'TRUE', 'FALSE' and 'DON'T KNOW' to the items on the POAKS. Advise respondents not to guess and if they are not sure of the correct answer to choose the option 'DON'T KNOW'.

For items 1, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16-20, 22-24 the correct answer is TRUE.

For items 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 15 and 21 the correct answer is FALSE.

Reference:

Fetherstonhaugh, D., Lewis, V., McAuliffe, L., & Bauer, M. (2015). Pain in older adults: development of a tool for measuring knowledge of residential aged care staff. *International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry*. doi: 10.1002/gps.4364.

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