

INTERNET-BASED SF-12V2 IS A RELIABLE AND VALID MEASURE OF HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE FOR KIDNEY DISEASE PATIENTS

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New provisions set forth by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services for coverage of dialysis treatments require use of the KDQOL-36, which includes the SF-12 Health Survey (a shortened version of the SF-36) to measure physical (PCS) and mental (MCS) health. We tested the psychometric properties of the SF-12v2 (Ware et al., 2002), an improved version of the SF-12, as part of an initiative to develop a computerized health assessment for chronic kidney disease (CKD).

The SF-12v2 was web-administered as part of a broader assessment (Saris-Baglama et al., 2008) to participants recruited via the National Kidney Foundation (mailings and Listservs) and an article published in *Kidney Beginnings*. Data quality, descriptive statistics, tests of scaling assumptions and reliability, and empirical validity of the SF-12v2 were examined in CKD Stage 3-5 (n=463), Dialysis (n=392), and Transplant (n=313) samples.

Across samples, there were few missing responses (<0.5%) and items passed tests of internal consistency ($r > .40$) and discriminant validity. Principal components analyses confirmed the 2-factor structure (physical, mental). The SF-12v2 distinguished among the groups [PCS: $F(2, 1152)=39.46, p<.0001$; MCS: $F(2, 1152)=23.01, p<.0001$]; the Transplant sample reported higher mean scores (PCS =45.52; MCS=48.62), indicative of better health, than Stage 3-5 (PCS =40.70; MCS=44.36) or Dialysis (PCS =37.88; MCS=43.03) samples.

The SF-12v2 is a reliable and valid measure of physical and mental health in persons with kidney disease. Findings support its use for monitoring the health of the CKD population across stages and treatment of kidney failure.