Introduction

The Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR) was developed at the Memory and Aging Project at Washington University School of Medicine in 1979 for the evaluation of dementia. The CDR is a five-point scale in which CDR-0 connotes no cognitive impairment and the remaining four points are for various stages of dementia:

> 0.5 = questionable, or very mild dementia
>
> 1 = mild
>
> 2 = moderate
>
> 3 = severe

The CDR score is derived from information collected from the informant interview, or the participant interview if no informant interview was obtained. If for any reason both an informant and a participant interview were obtained, the CDS form should be completed using the informant interview *only.*

The six domains used to construct the overall CDR score are: Memory, Orientation, Judgment and Problem-Solving, Community Affairs, Home and Hobbies, and Personal Care. Each of the domains is rated separately based on the participant's cognitive ability to function in these areas.

Procedures

To aid in rating the severity in each of the domains, the CDR table provides descriptors for each severity at each box score. These descriptors are meant to be used as guides. Staff should attempt to distinguish which is the best representation of severity for that particular domain. In situations where a staff member cannot decide between one and two severity levels, the standard rule is to rate a higher severity level. An example would be if memory is between a mild and a moderate severity rating, i.e., between a 1 and a 2 box score. The rule would be that memory is rated as a 2.

If the participant is limited in performing activities at home because of physical frailty, this should not affect their scoring on the CDR.

A video tutorial depicting the data entry process in CDART is available online at https://sites.cscc.unc.edu/hchs/SOL-INCA.

Recording Responses

For each question, enter or select the appropriate response.

Q0a. Enter the date on which the informant or participant interview was completed.

Q0b. Enter the Staff ID of the person who completed the form.

Q1. Memory: It may be difficult to make a distinction between CDR memory score of 2 or 3. CDR-2 says essentially only highly learned material is recalled and new material is rapidly forgotten, while for CDR-3 only fragments of memory remain. CDR-2 level should be assigned to an individual that appears to have a fairly good recall of essential past personal and historical items and may recall some portions of recent events but not the entire event. Someone with CDR-3 level may recall only a few relatively minor items from the past such as where they were born and whether or not they were married.

Q2 – Q5. These items are self-explanatory in conjunction with the online CDR training that is required of all individuals who administer this scale. The online training is available at https://knightadrc.wustl.edu/cdr/cdr.htm.

Q6. Personal Care: Personal Care is unique among the six domains in that it does not have a CDR-0.5 score. At the point where the participant requires some help, if only prompting to change clothes, to shave or to groom their hair, that becomes a CDR-1 score. If the participant requires no help, is fully independent, then the CDR score should be 0. It is important to emphasize to the participant and the informant that we are asking about <u>change</u> in cognitive ability from prior levels of functioning, i.e., the past year or ten years.

Q7. Click the refresh wheel by the empty field or click the "Save and Reload" button in CDART to calculate this score.

Q8. Follow the CDART link to the CDR Dementia Staging Instrument calculator. Use the online tool to calculate the Standard Global CDR score, and then enter the score into CDART.

Q9 – Q10. These items are self-explanatory in conjunction with the online CDR training that is required of all individuals who administer this scale. The online training is available at https://knightadrc.wustl.edu/cdr/cdr.htm.

Q11 – Q12. Click the refresh wheel by the empty field or click the "Save and Reload" button in CDART to calculate these scores.