

MINI-COG

PROMOTED BY: ☒ American Geriatrics Society ☒ Gerontological Society of America ☒ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Purpose of tool

Detection of
cognitive impairment

Where to find it

[Mini-Cog.com](https://www.mini-cog.com)

Who can administer this tool ?

Can be administered
by
non-clinicians with
minimal training

Time needed to administer tool

Up to 3 minutes

Who is this tool intended for ?

Patient

Training requirements

10 minutes,
individual or group,
or Mini-Cog video
www.actonalz.org

Strengths

Includes memory test and clock
drawing. Brief, relatively free of
bias due to language or
education constraints, easy to
use in non-specialist settings.
Explicit rules for administration
and scoring
embedded in test form. Free

Limitations

Patients without regular
exposure to analog clocks, or
limited experience with
drawing or writing, or those
with low levels of
educational attainment may
find this challenging even if
they don't have dementia.
Memory threshold score
compensates for this
limitation

Other considerations

Versions under
development
for patients
unfamiliar with
analog clocks

Language or cultural adaptations ?

Available in multiple
languages

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY MENTAL STATUS EXAMINATIONS (SLUMS)

PROMOTED BY: ☒ American Geriatrics Society ☒ Gerontological Society of America ☒ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Purpose of tool

Screening for cognitive impairment; may be used to identify several common cognitive problems in dementia, and to track progression

Where to find it

[Saint Louis University School of Medicine website](#)

Who can administer this tool ?

Social services staff, program coordinators, licensed nurses, nurse practitioners, occupational therapists, residence supervisors, and other health care professionals who have viewed the training video

Time needed to administer tool

10 + minutes

Who is this tool intended for ?

Patient

Training requirements

[SLUMS Training video](#)

Strengths

Similar to Mini-Mental State Exam; adds executive function component

Limitations

Relatively little published data on use

Other considerations

Includes component with culture-bound story recall; cultural adaptation needed for story recall portion and possibly other elements

Language or cultural adaptations ?

Available in multiple languages

CLOCK DRAWING TEST (CDT)

PROMOTED BY: ☒ American Geriatrics Society ☒ Gerontological Society of America ☒ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Purpose of tool

Detection of cognitive impairment; some use in research to track progression

Where to find it

No single site due to multiple versions and scoring systems

Who can administer this tool ?

Use by non-clinicians not reported

Time needed to administer tool

< 1 minute
(but up to several minutes if the person has severe impairment)

Who is this tool intended for ?

Patient

Training requirements

Depends on purpose of use and scoring system selected

Strengths

Requires many different cognitive abilities working together

Limitations

Many scoring systems from simple to highly complex; Mini-Cog CDT is best validated of the simple scoring methods

Other considerations

Severe vision loss or dominant hand motor impairment may interfere

Language or cultural adaptations ?

People without regular exposure to analog clocks, limited experience with drawing or writing, or illiteracy may not be able to do this even if they don't have dementia

8-ITEM INFORMANT INTERVIEW (AD8)

PROMOTED BY: ☒ American Geriatrics Society ☒ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Purpose of tool	Where to find it	Who can administer this tool ?	Time needed to administer tool	Who is this tool intended for ?
Detecting common symptoms of cognitive impairment	Washington University website	Self, knowledgeable partner, or interviewer	3+ minutes; requires variable thinking time before responding	Informant (e.g., care partner, family, friend, etc.)
Training requirements	Strengths	Limitations	Other considerations	Language or cultural adaptations ?
Unknown	Brief; requires minimal training to administer	Lack of knowledgeable partner may limit use for ongoing monitoring as a person's awareness of deficits diminishes	Derived from the Clinical Dementia Rating (CDR), a standard research tool for staging levels of impairment in United States	Unknown but being used in many languages

QUICK DEMENTIA RATING SYSTEM (QDRS)

PROMOTED BY: ☒ U.S. Preventive Services Task Force

Purpose of tool

Mainly for staging
the level of cognitive
impairment

Where to find it

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4484882/>

Who can administer this tool ?

Knowledgeable
partner provides
answers; may be
given as interview

Time needed to administer tool

3-5+ minutes;
requires
respondent thinking
time

Who is this tool intended for ?

Informant
(e.g., care partner,
family, friend, etc.)

Training requirements

Requires minimal
training

Strengths

Brief simple format

Limitations

Absence of
knowledgeable
partner

Other considerations

Can be completed
before a visit or by
phone or video

Language or cultural adaptations ?

Not studied

FUNCTIONAL ACTIVITIES QUESTIONNAIRE (FAQ)

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Purpose of tool	Where to find it	Who can administer this tool ?	Time needed to administer tool	Who is this tool intended for ?
Identify cognitive impairment based on independent activities of daily living (IADL)	https://www.alz.org/care-planning/downloads/functional-activities-questionnaire.pdf	Knowledgeable partners usually provide answers; anyone can ask the questions.	1-3 minutes	Informant (e.g., care partner, family, friend, etc.)
Training requirements	Strengths	Limitations	Other considerations	Language or cultural adaptations ?
None	High sensitivity and reliability; can discriminate among different stages of cognitive decline	Not all IADL apply to all people (social, cultural variation); can adjust scoring to compensate.	Ease of use across multiple settings; tracking change over time	Little published experience; needs more study

SHORT FORM OF THE INFORMANT QUESTIONNAIRE ON COGNITIVE DECLINE IN THE ELDERLY (SHORT IQCODE)

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Purpose of tool	Where to find it	Who can administer this tool ?	Time needed to administer tool	Who is this tool intended for ?
Identification and staging of cognitive impairment based on change from 10 years earlier	https://www.alz.org/media/documents/short-form-informant-questionnaire-decline.pdf	Clinicians, clinical and research staff	5+ minutes, requires thinking time	Informant (e.g., care partner, family, friend, etc.)
Training requirements	Strengths	Limitations	Other considerations	Language or cultural adaptations ?
Not reported	Relatively unaffected by education or proficiency in one's usual language	Requires informant who has known the person for years	Measures a single general factor of cognitive decline	Available in multiple languages