

How to identify the most suitable questionnaires and rating scales for your clinical practice or research? – Course equivalent to a tutorial -

1 ECTS

Organizer	Prof. Irina Guseva Canu, UNIL, Unisanté, Department of Occupational and Environmental Health
Summary	<p>The use of questionnaires and rating scales in the clinical and research settings is increasing, particularly for subjective health measures. The term “Patient-Reported Outcome Measure” (PROM) was introduced to designate standardized and validated instruments that are completed by patients to capture their perceptions of their health, exposure, and quality of life.</p> <p>However, identification of the best standardized and validated instrument for an outcome of interest rises multiple challenges. Several instruments can be available for an outcome, and even several versions of each instrument, with a few data on their respective validity. Clinicians and researchers should therefore assess PROMs psychometric validity to make the best choice of the instrument for their need. Yet, the validation process of questionnaires/rating scales is difficult and time-consuming, especially for those without training in clinimetrics. This course will help students address these challenges, by using the methodological guidelines and practical exercises. At the end of this course, the students will know (1) How to find the best PROM? and (2) How to make sure that this PROM is valid?</p>
Pre-requirements	<p>Reading materials: Shoman et al. 2021. “How to identify the most suitable questionnaires and rating scales for your clinical practice or research?” https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/ijcp.14895</p>
Content of course sessions	<p>Session 1: Introductory presentation on the topics as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is a PROM? • What are its most important psychometric properties? • How to assess their validity? • Guidelines for selecting the most suitable PROM • Web resources for searching and selecting the most valid PROM <p>Students’ choice of outcomes for practical exercises and the best/most valid PROM selection. <i>Students will be invited to briefly present their research topics and the outcome they wish/need to assess using a PROM.</i></p> <p>Sessions 2-5: Outcome and the most valid PROM selected (Students’ presentation of the results of their research, with 1 to 2 outcome-PROM pairs per session)</p> <p>Session 6 : Students’ presentation / Conclusions/ Course appraisal</p>

Course materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- go to "https://moodle2.unil.ch"- log in with your institutional address (unil, chuv, epfl)- click on "Faculté de Biologie et de Médecine" > "Ecole doctorale / doctoral school" > "Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School"- course materials and papers will be stored under "Valid PROM Selection"
Location	Life Streaming on Zoom: https://unil.zoom.us/j/7947706830 Please keep your camera on as the course is targeting interactions, and you will be asked questions throughout the course.
Course dates in 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 6 sessions: February 4, 11, 18 & March 4, 11, 18- Wednesdays from 3:00 PM to 5:00PM
Evaluation	The assessment will mainly be based on students' understanding of the papers to be read before each course session, practical work using web resources and the presentation by student before each session (beginning at session 2). For this, students will be asked to pair up (depending on participant number) and choose the health outcome to assess using a PROM. The presentation will describe the research steps and resource used (e.g., articles, web databases) enabling the identification of the most valid and most suitable PROM for their research/practice. Students are expected to question their pairs during and after the presentation, enabling active participation. Participants are requested to attend at least 80% of the course sessions.
Registration	The course is limited to 15 participants. Register by January 15 by writing a mail to Indscourses@gmail.com (with your supervisor in copy) and stating the course title as subject."