

August 17, 2007

To: Interested persons
Fr: Ron Kessler
Re: The CIDI-SF scales

As described by Kessler et al. (1998), the CIDI-SF scales were developed at the request of the U.S. National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) for use in the Conditions Module of the redesigned U.S. National Health Interview Survey (NHIS). A pair of short screening scale of nonspecific psychological distress (K6/K10) was developed at the same time (Kessler et al., 2002). Some CIDI-SF scales and the K6/K10 are now in use in the NHIS as well as in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) annual National Household Survey on Drug Abuse (NHSDA).

As detailed by Kessler et al. (1998), developmental work on the CIDI-SF was carried between 1993 and 1995 using the baseline NCS to generate a best short series of symptom questions among respondents who endorsed diagnostic stem questions. The OCD module was developed later by Gavin Andrews based on his National Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being in Australia using the same methods. We had hoped that either NIMH or SAMHSA would fund further methodological research, including a validation study. However, this never occurred. Since that time, Spitzer et al. (1995) developed the PRIME-MD and Sheehan et al. (1998) developed the MINI as alternative short diagnostic interviews, lessening the need for the CIDI-SF scales. Based on the availability of the PRIME-MD and MINI, we abandoned efforts to refine the CIDI-SF scales in the absence of funding from the NCHS.

We have informed the NCHS that calibration of the CIDI-SF scales included in the NHIS requires confirmatory clinical follow-up interviews and that a methodological study should be carried out to administer such interviews. In the absence of such data, the best calibrations available are those generated in the baseline NCS data. However, these should be considered only provisional in light of the fact that the fundamental survey conditions, order effects, and context effects of the NCS data collection are quite different from those for the CIDI-SF questions administered as stand-alone instruments.

Researchers who are interested in a short general-purpose screen for any disorder or for any serious mental disorder are referred to our work on the K6/K10 scales. Unlike the CIDI-SF, methodological research on the K6/K10 scales has been actively supported and calibration rules are available. For an overview of the K6/K10, see Kessler et al. (2002 and 2003). For information on comparative validity of the K6/K10, see Furukawa et al. (2003) Text and description of K6/K10 scoring can be found at http://www.hcp.med.harvard.edu/ncs/k6_scales.php

REFERENCES

Furukawa, T.A., Kessler, R.C., Slade, T., & Andrews G. (2003). The performance of the K6 and K10 screening scales for psychological distress in the Australian National Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being. Psychological Medicine 33, 357-362.

Kessler, R.C., Andrews, G., Mroczek, D., Üstün, T.B., & Wittchen, H-U. (1998). The World Health Organization Composite International Diagnostic Interview Short Form (CIDI-SF). International Journal of Methods in Psychiatric Research, 7, 171-185.

Kessler, R.C., Andrews, G., Colpe, L.J., Hiripi, E., Mroczek, D.K., Normand, S.-L.T., Walters, E.E., & Zaslavsky, A.M. (2002). Short screening scales to monitor population prevalences and trends in nonspecific psychological distress. Psychological Medicine 32(6), 959-976.

Kessler, R.C., & Walters, E.E. (2002). The National Comorbidity Survey. In M.T. Tsuang, M. Tohen, & G.E.P. Zahner (Eds.), Textbook in Psychiatric Epidemiology, Second Edition. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

Kessler, R.C., Barker, P.R., Colpe, L.J., Epstein, J.F., Gfroerer, J.C., Hiripi, E., Howes, M.J, Normand, S-L.T., Manderscheid, R.W., Walters, E.E., Zaslavsky, A.M. (2003). Screening for serious mental illness in the general population *Archives of General Psychiatry*. 60(2), 184-189

Sheehan DV, Lecrubier Y, Sheehan KH, Amorim P, Janavs J, Weiller E, Hergueta T, Baker R, Dunbar GC. (1998). The Mini-International Neuropsychiatric Interview (M.I.N.I.): the development and validation of a structured diagnostic psychiatric interview for DSM-IV and ICD-10. Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, 59, Suppl 20, 22-33.

Spitzer RL, Kroenke K, Linzer M, Hahn SR, Williams JB, deGruy FV 3rd, Brody D, Davies M. (1995) Health-related quality of life in primary care patients with mental disorders. Results from the PRIME-MD 1000 Study. Journal of the American Medical Association, 274, 1511-7.