

Observable Indicators of Nursing Home Care Quality Instrument Assisted Living/Residential Care Version

The rapid growth of residential care facilities, also called assisted living facilities, has raised quality concerns that parallel the concerns raised about quality of life and quality of care in nursing homes. Prior to 2006, in Missouri there were minimal state rules providing guidance to facilities licensed as residential care facility I and residential care facility II. In August 2006, the Missouri Assisted Living Facility Bill (SB616) became effective, raising the standards expected of residential care facility II.

The *Observable Indicators of Nursing Home Care Quality (OIQ)* instrument - *Assisted Living/Residential Care Quality Improvement Version* - is a list of 32 questions and ratings designed to measure the multidimensional concept of quality in assisted living facilities. The instrument is based on the extensive research work of Marilyn Rantz and the University of Missouri MDS Quality and Research Team's development of an *OIQ* for nursing homes.



Use of OIQ Assisted Living/Residential Care instrument

The nursing home *OIQ* instrument was field tested in Missouri residential care facilities which led to revisions in the questions to reflect the differences in care, environment and residents of the assisted living setting. After analysis of the field test, questions were eliminated and revisions of the questions took place to reflect the assisted living setting. Expert review was used to obtain content validity of the revised instrument and validity of the subscales (communication, care, staff, environment and home/family involvement).

Reliability was obtained by sending nurses into Missouri assisted living facilities using a stratified sample throughout the state. Statistical analysis revealed excellent test-retest reliability, good interrater reliability and excellent internal consistency. Most subscales had excellent and good results.

The assisted living version has ranges for each subscale, indicating whether the score is average, below average or above average, in addition to a total score. Assisted living facilities can use the instrument as part of a quality improvement program to monitor quality of care and quality of life in their facility.

Additional field testing of the revised instrument followed the above activity, with 207 Missouri and Wisconsin residential care facilities being visited. Validity and reliability results are summarized in Aud's JNCQ article¹.

There are three versions of the instrument available for use: a researcher version, a consumer version and the facility version titled as the quality improvement version.

¹ Aud M., Rantz, M.J., Zwiygart-Stauffacher M., Flesner M. (2006). Measuring quality of care in assisted living: A new tool for providers, consumers, and researchers. *Journal of Nursing Care Quality* 22(1):4-7.

Example questions from the *AL OIQ* instrument follows:

1. Were residents dressed and clean?

1	2	3	4	5
Most were not	Some were	Many were	Most were	All were

5. Were residents' rooms personalized with furniture, pictures, and other things from their past?

1	2	3	4	5
Most were not	A few were	Some were	Many were	Most were

12. Were other unpleasant odors noticeable in the facility?

1	2	3	4	5
Pervasive throughout	In most areas	Occasionally	Hardly at all	Not at all

User Guide

A four-page user guide is also available for use with the *OIQ* instruments. Individuals planning on using the instrument are encouraged to review the guide before completion of the instrument.