

## Questionnaire of von Korff et al for Grading the Severity of Chronic Pain

Overview: The severity of chronic pain can be graded based on its characteristics and its impact on a person's activities.

Questions [text slightly modified from Appendix page 147]

(1) How would you rate your pain on a 0-10 scale at the present time (right now)? [Pain Right Now]

- responses 0 to 10
- 0 = no pain
- 10 = pain as bad as it could be

(2) During the past 6 months how intense was your worst pain? [Worst Pain]

- responses 0 to 10
- 0 = no pain
- 10 = pain as bad as it could be

(3) During the past 6 months on the average how intense was your pain? (That is your usual pain at times you were experiencing pain.) [Average Pain]

- responses 0 to 10
- 0 = no pain
- 10 = pain as bad as it could be

(4) About how many days in the past 6 months have you been kept from your usual activities (work school or housework) because of your pain? [Disability Days]

- response the total number of days disabled
- points assigned below

(5) In the past 6 months how much has the pain interfered with your daily activities? [Daily Activities]

- responses 0 to 10
- 0 = no interference
- 10 = unable to carry on any activities

(6) In the past 6 months how much has the pain changed your ability to take part in recreational social and family activities? [Social Activities]

- responses 0 to 10

- 0 = no change
- 10 = extreme change

(7) In the past 6 months how much has the pain changed your ability to work (including housework)? [Work Activities]

- responses 0 to 10
- 0 = no change
- 10 = extreme change

characteristic pain intensity = (((response question 1) + (response question 2) + (response question 3)) / 3) \* 10

disability score = (((response question 5) + (response question 6) + (response question 7)) / 3) \* 10

disability points = (points for disability days) + (points for disability score)

Parameter	Finding	Points
disability days from question 4	0 - 6 days	0
	7 - 14 days	1
	15 - 30 days	2
	>= 31 days	3
disability score (above)	0 - 29	0
	30 - 49	1
	40 - 69	2
	>= 70	3

#### Interpretation

Findings	Type	Grade
no pain problems for the prior 6 months	pain free	0
characteristic pain intensity < 50 disability points < 3	low disability low intensity	I
characteristic pain intensity >= 50 disability points < 3	low disability high intensity	II
disability points 3 or 4	high disability moderately limiting	III
disability points 5 or 6	high disability severely limiting	IV

## References:

Smith BH Penny KI et al. The Chronic Pain Grade questionnaire: Validation and reliability in postal research. *Pain*. 1997; 71: 141-147.

Von Korff M Ormel J et al. Grading the severity of chronic pain. *Pain*. 1992; 50: 133-149.

Von Korff M Deyo RA et al. Back pain in primary care. *Spine*. 1993; 18: 855-862. (Table 1 page 856).