

Information document signposting to  
incontinence-specific quality-of-life scales

# Urinary incontinence in women

Published: September 2013

<http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG171>

## **Incontinence-specific quality-of-life scales**

### ***Introduction***

This implementation tool directs healthcare professionals to where to find the incontinence-specific quality-of-life (QOL) scales listed in recommendation [1.1.16](#) of [Urinary incontinence in women](#) (NICE clinical guideline 171). Where available we have provided web links to the recommended scales.

The recommendation states:

‘Use the following incontinence-specific quality-of-life scales when therapies are being evaluated: ICIQ, BFLUTS, I-QOL, SUIQQ, UISS, SEAPI-QMM, ISI and KHQ.’

Page 62 of the [full guideline](#) gives further information on how these scales can be used and their reliability:

‘Symptom and quality of life (QOL) scoring is used to give some quantification of the impact of urinary symptoms and provides a measure that can be used to assess outcomes of treatment at a later stage. The test–retest reliability of ICIQ, BFLUTS, I-QOL, SUIQQ, UISS, SEAPI-QMM, ISI and KHQ is good’.

The table overleaf explains how to access each tool as well as providing further reading and academic references for each one.

### ***Incontinence-specific quality-of-life scales available online***

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Availability</b>	<b>Further reading / academic references</b>
<b>BFLUTS</b> <a href="#">(Bristol Female Urinary Tract Symptoms questionnaire)</a>	<p>The BFLUTS short form questionnaire is known as the ICIQ-FLUTS. The long form version of the BFLUTS is known as ICIQ-FLUTS long form.</p> <p>Freely available to academics/research organisations and groups of clinicians. Permission to use questionnaire should be sought from <a href="#">ICIQ</a>.</p>	<p>Jackson S, Donovan J, Brookes et al. (1996) The Bristol female lower urinary tract symptoms questionnaire: Development and psychometric testing. British Journal of Urology 77: 805–12</p>
<b>ICIQ</b> <a href="#">(International Consultation on Incontinence Questionnaire)</a>	<p>'ICIQ scale' in this document refers to the ICIQ-UI Short Form</p> <p>Freely available to academic/research organisations and groups of clinicians. Permission to use questionnaire should be sought from <a href="#">ICIQ</a>.</p>	<p>Avery K, Donovan J, Peters TJ et al. (2004) ICIQ: A brief and robust measure for evaluating the symptoms and impact of urinary incontinence. Neurology and Urodynamics 23: 322 – 30</p>
<b>IQOL</b> <a href="#">(Incontinence Quality of Life questionnaire)</a>	<p>There is a charge for this questionnaire.</p>	<p>Summers K et al. (2005) Quality of life of women with urinary incontinence: cross-cultural performance of 15 language versions of the I-QOL. Quality of Life Research 14: 1901–13</p> <p>Patrick DL, Martin ML, Bushnell DM et al. (1999) Quality of life of women with urinary incontinence: further development of the incontinence quality of life instrument (I-QOL). Urology 53: 71–6</p> <p>Wagner TH, Patrick DL, Bavendam TG et al. (1996) Quality of life of persons with urinary incontinence: development of a new measure. Urology 47: 67–71</p>
<b>KHQ</b> <a href="#">(Kings Health Questionnaire)</a>	<p>Freely available via the <a href="#">NICE website</a></p>	<p>Kelleher CJ, Cardozo LD, Khullar V et al. (1997) A new questionnaire to assess the quality of life of urinary incontinent women. British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 104 (12):1374–9.</p>

<p><b>SUIQQ</b> (<a href="#">Stress and Urge Incontinence and Quality of Life Questionnaire</a>)</p>	<p>Freely available via the <a href="#">NICE website</a>.</p> <p>Available from Sigurd Kulseng-Hanssen MD PhD, Asker and Bærum Hospital, Bærum, Norway.</p>	<p>Kulseng-Hanssen S, Borstad E. (2003) The development of a questionnaire to measure the severity of symptoms and the quality of life before and after surgery for stress incontinence. British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 110: 983–8</p>
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***Incontinence-specific quality-of-life scales not available online***

<b>Scale</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<p><b>ISI</b> (Incontinence Severity Index)</p>	<p>Hanley J, Capewell A, Hagen S (2001) Validity study of the severity index, a simple measure of urinary incontinence in women. British Medical Journal 322:1096–7</p> <p>Sandvik H, Hunskaar S, Seim A et al. (1993) Validation of a severity index in female urinary incontinence and its implementation in an epidemiological survey. Journal of Epidemiology &amp; Community Health 47: 497–9</p>
<p><b>SEAPI-QMM</b> (Stress-related leak, Emptying ability, Anatomy, Protection, Inhibition, Quality of life, Mobility and mental status incontinence classification System)</p>	<p>Stothers L (2004) Reliability, validity, and gender differences in the quality of life index of the SEAPI-QMM incontinence classification system. Neurology and Urodynamics 23: 223–8</p>
<p><b>UISS</b> (Urinary Incontinence Severity Score)</p>	<p>Stach-Lempinen B, Kujansuu E, Laippala P et al. (2001) Visual analogue scale, urinary incontinence severity score and 15 D--psychometric testing of three different health-related quality-of-life instruments for urinary incontinent women. Scandinavian Journal of Urology and Nephrology 35: 476–83</p>

This information document accompanies the NICE clinical guideline (available online at: [www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG171](http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG171)).

It includes links to resources from other organisations that may help with implementing the guideline. While NICE is satisfied that these resources broadly support the guideline, NICE cannot be held responsible for the content of resources produced by other organisations. The resources should be used alongside the guideline itself

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