

Medical Home Index and Medical Home Family Index and Survey Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. ***Has the Medical Home Index undergone psychometric testing? A validated instrument?***

A: Yes, the Pediatric Medical Home Index – Long Version is a validated instrument.

The methodology to validate the Medical Home Index consisted of Pediatric primary care offices completing the MHI and participating in 90-minute on-site interviews with two of the authors (J.W. McAllister and K. Sherrieb). The study examined interrater reliability between the 2 project staff and between the practices and project staff and the internal consistency of MHI domains and themes.

On a 100-point scale, 43 practices demonstrated a range of MHI summary scores from 18.9 to 75.4, with a mean of 43.9. Kappa coefficients of interrater reliability between two Center for Medical Home Improvement project staff were above .50 for all 25 themes. Kappa scores comparing each staff member and the practice sites' self-assessment found 80% of the themes at .65 or better for one interviewer (J.W.M.) and 60% of the themes at .65 or better for the second interviewer (K.S.). Intraclass correlation coefficients between the summary scores of the interviewers were .98 and between the scores of the two interviewers and the scores of the practices was .97. The internal consistency reliability standardized alpha coefficients across the 6 domains of the MHI ranged from .81 to .91, and the overall standardized alpha coefficient was .96.

2. ***What is the reference source for the psychometric testing/validation of the Pediatric Medical Home Index – Long Version?***

A: Cooley, W.C., McAllister, J.W., Sherrieb, K. & Clark, R. (2003). The medical home index: development and validation of a new practice-level measure of implementation of the medical home model. *Ambulatory Pediatrics*, 3, 173-180.

3. ***Is the Adult Medical Home Index – Long Version validated?***

A: Although, the Adult Long Version MHI has not gone through the same rigorous validation process as the Pediatric MHI – Long Version, it is based on the Pediatric MHI – Long Version with only minor wording changes to reflect adult care.

4. ***Is there a short version of the Medical Home Index?***

A: Yes. There is a short version of the Pediatric and Adult Medical Home Index. The short version can be used as an interval measurement in conjunction with the original MHI or it can be used as a quick “report card” or snapshot of practice quality. CMHI recommends the use of the full MHI for practice improvement purposes but offers this short version for interval or periodic measurement and/or when it is not feasible to use the full MHI.

5. ***Is the Short Version Pediatric and Adult Medical Home Index undergone psychometric testing? Validated?***

A: While the short version of the MHI was not subjected to the same validation process, it was arrived at through the statistical process applied to the originally validated long version.

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6. Two of the questions in the care coordination domain indicate that physicians should include the opinion of other staff. Is this necessary to maintain validity?

A: Yes. This is how the MHI was validated. In addition, it is an important element of the instrument to obtain opinions of other staff to ensure a true practice self-assessment.

7. Can we use only a couple indicators from the MHI?

A: Our recommendation is to use the full MHI. However, we understand practices or researchers may want to apply only a few indicators for quality improvement efforts or study. If using less than the full MHI instrument, it can no longer be considered a validated instrument. We also request that if using less than the full MHI, it should not be called the "Medical Home Index" but clearly labeled obtained from a portion of the MHI for specific use

8. Are their operational definitions for each LEVEL of the Medical Home Index?

A: No, there are no operational definitions for the terms the authors used to describe each of the 4 levels of achievement. These terms were the author's own. Please note the content per each Level details the achievement expectation.

9. Has the Family Medical Home Index undergone psychometric testing? Validation?

A: 300 parents across 10 practices were mailed a survey from their medical home/CMHI. They were identified by PCP as having a child affected by a disability or chronic health condition according to USMCHB definition.

121 replied at pre survey of which 82 (of the 121) replied post survey. 82 matched sets with six areas showing significant improvements. 97% of all surveys showed children had positive CAHMI screeners/Bethell for having a special health care need.

10. What was the level of family involvement in the development of the content/format of the Family Medical Home Index tool?

A: We had three parents intimately involved in the development of the Medical Home Family Index. Their time was supported under our federal grant (USMCHB) to do so. Both were from Parent to Parent/Family Voices, VT (Nancy Divenere, now with Parent to Parent nationally).

They had specific questions and language that they wanted which was incorporated. This meant that the MHFI did not track directly to all six domains of the Medical Home Index as planned, but did track to the first 3 (organizational capacity, chronic condition management, and care coordination). We have used this tool and our more extensive survey in a publication that is coming out in Journal of Ambulatory Care Management, in 2009, showing family outcomes as a result of medical home improvement.