

QNHS q2 2002

Section 3 – Disability Module

Note - Refusal and Don't know icons should be operational for all questions in this module.

IF Direct AND 15<age<=64 THEN ASK

PERM

Can I ask you some questions about health and disability?

1. Yes/o.k.
2. No/Refusal

What people can do at work is often dependent on their health. Some people may have physical health problems or disabilities such as heart problems, respiratory problems, or difficulties in walking; others may have sight or hearing problems even wearing glasses or hearing aids, whereas others may have psychological or emotional problems. Health problems also include such illnesses as diabetes, dyslexia, epilepsy, problems with digestion as well as skin complaints'.

IF Proxy AND 15<age<=64 THEN ASK

PERM2

Can I ask you some questions about health and disability for ^name?

1. Yes/o.k.
2. No/Refusal

IF perm=1 or perm2=1 THEN ASK ELSE EXIT

If person agrees to answer health questions, they will be asked the question DISABLE. If person refuses to answer questions, then the interview terminates.

DISABLE

Do you have any longstanding health problem or disability?

- 1. Yes**
- 2. No**
- 3. Refusal**

IF disable=1 THEN ASK ELSE EXIT

Note: By longstanding we mean anything that has affected respondent over the past 6 months, or that is likely to affect respondent for at least 6 months.

Rationale

The first variable introduces the topic of a health problem and it is this variable along with its impact, which are used as the statistic for setting clear goals and targets for the employment of disabled people. Thus one can look at the distribution of disabled people according to their economic activity by age, sex and, where appropriate, type of employment.

Interviewing Instructions

Longstanding

The key word is **longstanding**, as it is important to distinguish between long term and short term health problems. As a general rule, longstanding should refer to 6 months or more. The two scenarios which are acceptable are (a) at the time of interview the problem had already existed for 6 months or more, and (b) at the time of interview the problem had been present for less than 6 months but is likely to continue for a time such that it is expected to have a least a 6 month duration.

The six-month period should be seen as a guide to understanding the term longstanding, rather than defining an absolute period of time. The purpose of using the term, longstanding, is to distinguish between chronic conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, schizophrenia and acute conditions such as a sprained ankle, a broken leg, appendicitis or a respiratory tract infection.

Coverage of health problems

Many people think of health problems as referring solely to physical health problems whereas they cover sensory problems as well, i.e. sight and hearing problems, and mental health problems. Therefore, the list of conditions listed for Variable 2 should be used as an aide memoire at this variable.

Coding instructions

Single event, continuous health problems

Health problems arising from a single event which are continuous in nature should be straightforward to code.

Recurrent or episodic conditions

Some conditions are recurrent (e.g. back pain), where there is an acute period followed by remission; other conditions are episodic in nature (e.g. epilepsy). Both of these examples should be coded, “Yes”, as they are continual or continuous problems.

Terminal illness or outcome dependent on treatment

If the respondent is suffering from a terminal illness or if the length of the illness is dependent on the outcome of treatment (e.g. a course of chemotherapy), code “Yes”.

Don't know/not sure

If the respondent does not know how long their health problem is going to last, the interviewer must not make the decision; respondents should be encouraged to estimate how long they think their problem will last for taking account of any information given by doctors or other health professionals.

If the respondent has a longstanding health problem or disability, they are asked the following question WHATDIS. If the respondent does not have a longstanding health problem or disability, or refuses to answer, then the interview terminates.

WHATDIS

Which of the following categories would best describe your health condition?

- 1. Problems with arms or hands (which include arthritis or rheumatism)**
- 2. Problems with legs or feet (which include arthritis or rheumatism)**
- 3. Problems with back or neck (which include arthritis or rheumatism)**
- 4. Difficulty with seeing**
- 5. Difficulty with hearing**
- 6. Speech impediment**
- 7. Skin conditions (including disfigurement or allergies)**
- 8. Chest or breathing problems (including asthma or bronchitis)**
- 9. Heart, blood pressure or circulation problems**
- 10. Stomach, liver, kidney or digestive problems**
- 11. Diabetes**
- 12. Epilepsy**
- 13. Mental, nervous or emotional problems**
- 14. Other progressive illnesses (including cancers, MS, HIV, Parkinsons disease etc.)**
- 15. Other longstanding health problems**
- 16. Refusal**

There is a prompt card available for this question.

Note: Multiple responses are **not** allowed

Note: Which of these limits your work capacity the most?

Note: If more than one condition exists, then code the "main" one - whichever the respondent feels to be the most important or troublesome.

Rationale

This variable has been included so that the relationship between economic activity and type of health problem can be investigated. For example, one can look at the extent to which people with particular physical health problems, mental health problems, or seeing or hearing difficulties are involved in the labour market. At a more detailed level, it is also possible to examine the relationship between specific health problems and their impact on participation in particular occupations. This would highlight those occupations which do not create a barrier to people with certain disabilities, i.e. enabling people with particular health problems to work, as distinct from occupations for which a greater effort is needed to accommodate people with activity restrictions.

Interviewing Instructions

Identify "main" problem

The list of health problems represent those which are commonly reported in health surveys. They represent a mixture of problems associated with anatomical, physiological and psychological structures and functions.

One health problem may be covered by more than one code (e.g. arthritis in arms, legs and back) and some respondents may have multiple problems, a sight problem, a stomach problem and depression.

Coding Instructions

Coding "main" problem.

If several codes are initially identified as representing the health problems of the respondent, one code needs to be chosen. Although several criteria can be used to establish what is the main problem (e.g. causes most pain, most recent, existed for the longest time), the characteristic most appropriate for the present purposes is the consequences of the problem, its impact on the life of the individual. **More specifically, the main problem is the one which respondents think limits their work activities the most.**

Inclusions and exclusions for specific codes

- *Codes 1-3:* should include limb or postural deformities
- *Code 4:* difficulties in seeing should only be included if wearing glasses or contact lenses are not sufficiently effective.
- *Code 5:* difficulties in hearing should only be included if grommets or hearing aids are not sufficiently effective.
- *Code 6:* a speech impediment does not include language problems as a result of unfamiliarity with the native language.

- *Code 7*: severe disfigurements include scars, birthmarks, and diseases of the skin; exclude tattooing and body piercing.
- *Code 8*: hay fever (severe allergic rhinitis) should be excluded except where it aggravates the effects of an existing condition.
- *Code 9*: includes stroke.
- *Code 13*: Mental, nervous or emotional problems include severe mental illness: psychosis (e.g. schizophrenia) affective disorders, (e.g. manic depression) and clinically recognised less severe disorders such as anxiety, depressive episodes, panic, phobias etc. Specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyscalcula are also included here. Severe learning difficulties have, in the past, been termed mental handicap, mental impairment and mental retardation.
- *Code 14* Progressive illnesses should be recorded if there is some effect on the respondent's day to day activities, even if it is minor at the time of the interview.
- *Code 15* Alcohol and drug dependency should be included. Reproductive system problems should be recorded under this category unless appropriate under code 14.

IF whatdis=16 (refusal) THEN EXIT ELSE ASK

TIMEDIS

How long have you had this health condition?

1. **Since birth**
2. **Less than 6 months**
3. **Between 6 months and a year**
4. **Between 1 and 2 years**
5. **Between 2 and 3 years**
6. **Between 3 and 5 years**
7. **Between 5 and 10 years**
8. **10 years or more**
9. **Don't know**
10. **Refusal**

Note: If time of onset uncertain: take the moment respondents first sought medical help for this problem, or when the problem first had an effect on respondents day to day life

Rationale

The purpose of this question is to look at the association of health problems with the person's employment history. Therefore, one can look at how long a person has been restricted in relation to their participation in the labour market or, more specifically, their length of unemployment. At a more detailed level, one can look at the impact of the duration of particular types of health problems on economic activity.

Interviewing Instructions

Onset

The onset of a health problem may be obvious, for example, if it was caused by an accident or injury. However, some health problems have a gradual onset, are episodic in nature, vary in severity. In such cases two key guides for measuring duration are - going back to the time the respondent first sought medical help or when the condition first had an effect on their day to day activities.

Coding Instructions

Duration

The duration codes are in fairly broad bands to distinguish between recent problems and more longer-term health problems.

Inclusions and exclusions for specific codes

- *Code 1:* “Since birth” includes congenital abnormalities and perinatal conditions.

IF timedis=1 THEN SET whydis=1 ELSE ASK

<p>WHYDIS</p> <p>What was the cause of your health condition or disability?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Born with it or birth injury2. Work-related accident or injury (including traffic accidents at work)3. Non work-related traffic accident or injury4. Household, leisure or sports accident or injury (non work-related)5. Work-related disease6. Non work-related disease7. Don't know8. Refusal
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Rationale

Information on causes of restrictions in work activities is important for the planning and evaluation of prevention programmes. Due to the limited space on a disability module, information on cause is obtained by asking about broad conditions which either gave cause to or underlie the health problem, rather than asking detailed questions concerning specific illnesses or injuries.

Coding Instructions

Inclusions and exclusions for specific codes

- *Code 1:* “Born with it” includes congenital abnormalities and perinatal conditions.
- *Code 2:* Vehicle accidents, which occurred during the course of work, should be included here, as should industrial poisoning.

KINDWORK

Does (would) your health condition or disability restrict the kind of work that you can (could) do?

1. **Yes, considerably**
2. **Yes, to some extent**
3. **No**

Note: By "work" we mean paid work or employment rather than house work.

Rationale

The rationale behind the inclusion of variables *Kindwork*, *Muchwork* and *Towork* is to investigate how people's health problems interfere with the work that they do or can do. This should enable policies to be drawn up which target particular aspects of the job. For example, some adaptation to the structure of the workplace or a more flexible approach to how work is organised may considerably benefit the reintegration of disabled people into the labour market. The data should also inform how jobs could be created for people with different types of health problems.

Interviewing Instructions

Kind of work

This variable and the subsequent two variables examine the effect of the health problem in the context of work. The *kind of work* covers, for example, the quality of work, heavy compared with light work, being able to work outdoors as well as indoors, needing to sit down etc.

Can/could do

The choice of wording allows the question to be asked of those who are working and those who are not working, both unemployed and economically inactive.

Coding Instructions

Restriction in activity

Looking at the restriction in activity related to a health problem takes into account the frequency of its impact (all the time, daily, weekly, monthly etc.) and the severity of its impact (a lot, somewhat, a little). It is the respondent who decides if they are restricted or not, and if so, considerably or to some extent.

MUCHWORK

Does (would) your health condition or disability restrict the amount of work that you can (could) do?

1. **Yes, considerably**
2. **Yes, to some extent**
3. **No**

Note: By "work" we mean paid work or employment rather than house work.

Rationale

See corresponding section for ***Kindwork***

Interviewing Instructions

Amount of work

The term, *amount of work*, includes number of hours, amount that is/can be earned, and attendance at work.

Can/could do

As for ***Kindwork*** the choice of wording for ***Muchwork*** allows the question to be asked of those who are working and those who are not working, both unemployed and economically inactive.

Coding Instructions

Restriction in activity

Looking at the restriction in activity related to a health problem takes into account the frequency of its impact (all the time, daily, weekly, monthly etc.) and the severity of its impact (a lot, somewhat, a little). It is the respondent who decides if they are restricted or not, and if so, considerably or to some extent.

IF paidwork=1, jobabs=1, unpaidwk=1 OR everwork=1 AND yearleft>1998

OR worlq=1 THEN ASK towork

If person was working in the reference week or worked recently.

TOWORK

Does (would) your health condition cause any difficulty getting to and from work that you can (could) do?

1. **Yes, considerably**
2. **Yes, to some extent**
3. **No**

Note: By "work" we mean paid work or employment rather than house work.

Rationale

Mobility

The term, mobility, needs to be distinguished from walking and locomotion; the latter referring to walking in the level, going up or down steps and stairs, moving without falling etc. Mobility means getting around, out and about and is affected by many external factors: the design of buildings, the neighbourhood where people live and the use of equipment such as wheelchairs. People who can not walk may have varying degrees of mobility – they may be bed-bound, housebound, only able to go out with assistance or may have relatively full mobility with assistance from equipment or people. Mobility is a very good example of showing how disability is an interaction of the person and the environment. Someone with a severe walking

problem may have no mobility problems because assistance is provided or environmental barriers have been removed.

In the present context, our interest is in the journey to and from work. Mobility is one of the key issues with respect to disabled people and work. Many Member States have already introduced measures to help disabled people to get to and from work (e.g. providing transport which can take wheelchairs).

Interviewing Instructions

Can be done

Unlike the variables ***Kindwork*** and ***Muchwork*** where the wording allows the question to be asked of those who are working and those who are not working, both unemployed and economically inactive, this question is restricted to those in employment and who have worked recently.

Coding Instructions

Restriction in activity

Looking at the restriction in activity related to a health problem takes into account the frequency of its impact (all the time, daily, weekly, monthly etc.) and the severity of its impact (a lot, somewhat, a little). It is the respondent who decides if they are restricted or not, and if so, considerably or to some extent.

IF paidwork=1 OR jobabs=1 OR unpaidwk=1 THEN ASK assistp
If person was working in the reference week

ASSISTP

Is any form of assistance provided to facilitate you work?

- 1. Yes, considerably**
- 2. Yes, to some extent**
- 3. No**

Rationale

The purpose of this variable is to measure provision of assistance as distinct from need.

Interviewing Instructions

Assistance

The use of the term, assistance, refers to familial, organisational and environmental changes which help a person carrying out work activities.

IF assistp=1 OR 2 THEN ASK assist1
If assistance is provided (considerable or otherwise)

ASSIST1

What type of assistance is provided at you work?

- 1. Assistance with kind of work**
- 2. Assistance with amount of work**
- 3. Assistance with mobility to get to and from work**
- 4. Assistance with mobility at work**
- 5. Support and understanding by superiors and colleagues**
- 6. Other**
- 7. Don't know**

Note: Multiple responses are allowed

You must tick the boxes on the screen or place a space between each number as you key them. E.g. If you want to select options 1,2 and 3 you must type "1 2 3" as opposed to "123".

Rationale

The list of types of assistance are described in general terms and cover those areas which are commonly reported in employment and health surveys. They can be regarded as methods to remove barriers to participation in work. The variable permits the respondent to say what is their main type of assistance needed or provided. These data can also be related to the type of health problem.

There are far too many specific types of help or assistance for particular disabilities for various types of work for each to be included as separate codes. (e.g. Braille, sign language interpretation, teleworking, wheelchair ramps etc.)

Interviewing Instructions

Initially identifying all types of assistance

More than one code may be appropriate. Initially, it is important to find out about all of them and then code main type of assistance, i.e. that which reduces or would reduce activity restriction the most.

Coding instructions

Notes for specific codes

- Code 1: The *kind of work* covers, for example, the quality of work, having lighter loads to carry, being able to work outdoors as well as indoors, being able to sit down more. Assistance could refer to specially designed tasks or the use disability equipment or adaptations to the workplace.
- Code 2: The term, *amount of work*, includes number of hours, amount that is/can be earned, and attendance at work

IF paidwork=1 OR unpaidwk=1 or jobabs=1 AND NOT jobstat1=1 THEN
ASK workdis
If person worked in reference week as employee

WORKDIS

Do you work in sheltered or supported employment?

1. Yes
2. No

Rationale

Sheltered employment for disabled people is that performed under special conditions. There can be numerous schemes under this broad category. For example, there is a scheme where disabled persons are able to work but can not easily secure employment in open competition. The person is employed by a sponsor organisation, is placed with a host firm and receives the same wages, terms and conditions as their non-disabled colleagues. The person is paid partly by the sponsor and partly by the host firm.

There may be variations in the expressions used for such employment and in its operation across Member states.

IF NOT paidwork=1 OR jobabs=1 OR unpaidwk=1 THEN ASK assistr
If person was not working in the reference week.

ASSISTR

Is there any form of assistance that you would need in order to work?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Rationale

The purpose of this variable is to measure need for assistance to work.

Interviewing Instructions

Assistance

The use of the term, assistance, refers to familial, organisational and environmental changes which help a person carrying out work activities.

IF assistr=1 THEN ASK assist2

Person needs some form of assistance in order to work.

ASSIST2

What type of assistance would enable you to work?

- 1. Assistance with kind of work**
- 2. Assistance with amount of work**
- 3. Assistance with mobility to get to and from work**
- 4. Assistance with mobility at work**
- 5. Support and understanding by superiors and colleagues**
- 6. Other**
- 7. Don't know**

Note: Multiple responses **are** allowed

You must tick the boxes on the screen or place a space between each number as you key them. E.g. If you want to select options 1,2 and 3 you must type "1 2 3" as opposed to "123".