

2.6. EQ-HWB

Several years ago, researchers from the University of Sheffield, in collaboration with an international team of researchers from the EuroQol Group and other organisations, started a research project titled “Going beyond health-related quality of life – towards a broader QALY measure for use across sectors (E-QALY)”. The aim of this research project was to produce a self-reported outcome measure, suitable for use across health care and social care. The project has been jointly funded by the UK Medical Research Council and the EuroQol Research Foundation. This project is nearing completion, with final study results expected in Q3 2021, if the pandemic allows it. The new instrument is titled EQ-HWB (EQ Health and Wellbeing instrument). See also: <https://euroqol.org/blog/eq-hwb/>.

In line with our current IP Protection Policy both versions of the EQ-HWB instrument have been given an Experimental Version status. This means that EQ-HWB is only available to research collaborators. The Executive Committee of the EuroQol Group appointed the EQ-HWB Special Interest Group (SIG), as part of the Descriptive Systems Working Group, to oversee further development and testing of the instrument. Co-chaired by Simon Pickard and Clara Mukuria, this international group will coordinate EQ-HWB research with the aim to refine the instrument and collect evidence about its performance as needed to raise the status of the instrument.

In common with other EuroQol instruments, it is envisaged that the EQ-HWB-S will be accompanied by preference-weighted value sets to facilitate its use in the economic evaluation of health and social care. A large feasibility valuation study is being undertaken. Evidence produced can support further refinement of the EQ-HWB descriptive system and guide research on valuation.

Currently, studies to support the development of the source version and methodological work to inform the descriptive system with different modes of administration such as interviewer versions or proxy versions will be considered. Methodological work on valuation is also invited. The EQ-HWB-S has nine dimensions which can be more challenging for participants to attend to compared to the EQ-5D. There is also an interest in assessing how the EQ-HWB instruments perform in different populations using existing data or piggyback studies. Given the experimental status and on-going work, there is limited support for translation so individuals are encouraged to consider using existing translations (English, Spanish, German and Simplified Chinese). No national value sets or large data collection will be funded at this stage.

If you have any question about the possibility to become a research collaborator, please contact Aureliano Finch (finch@euroqol.org).