PDRQ-9 English version

Instruction:
You will read nine statements that a person can make about his/her doctor. Please choose the appropriateness of each statement for your doctor by marking one number per statement. The meaning of the numbers is as follows:

1 _ not at all appropriate
2 _ somewhat appropriate
3 _ appropriate
4 _ mostly appropriate
5 _ totally appropriate

1	My doctor helps me	1	2	3	4	5
2	My doctor has enough time for me	1	2	3	4	5
3	I trust my doctor	1	2	3	4	5
4	My doctor understands me	1	2	3	4	5
5	My doctor is dedicated to help me	1	2	3	4	5
6	My doctor and I agree on the nature of my medical symptoms	1	2	3	4	5
7	I can talk to my doctor	1	2	3	4	5
8	I feel content with my doctor's treatment	1	2	3	4	5
9	I find my doctor easily accessible	1	2	3	4	5
	Subtotal score per answering option (i.e. all 1s, all 2s etc.)					
	Total score all items					

Scoring
Item scoring
The questionnaire consists of 9 items assessing a single underlying construct: the patient's experience of the relation with their doctor. Each item is scored on a 5-point response scale, ranging from 1 to 5. All items are scored in the same direction; higher item scores indicate a more positive experience.

Handling of missing item responses
If no more than two items are missing (i.e., ≤ 22% of the items), the score may be calculated by replacing the missing item(s) with the mean of the completed items for that respondent.
If more than two items are missing, the total and mean scores should not be calculated and should be treated as missing.

Total score
A total score is obtained by summing the scores of all 9 items. The total score ranges from 9 to 45. This is a raw score (RS).

Interpretation of raw total scores and cut-off values
Higher total or mean scores indicate a better experience. For the raw score, we recommend cut-off values of RS < 35 for a challenged patient-doctor relationship (PDR), 35≤ RS ≤ 42 for an average PDR, and RS > 42 for a good PDR.

Standardisation of the raw total score

Standardized scores (T-scores) can be obtained after normalizing the raw scores with a polynomial transformation. T-scores have a mean of M = 50 and SD = 10. The function to transform a raw score (RS) to normalized T-scores is as follows:

$T_{normalized}$ = 6.1e-01+1.89***RS**-3.865e-02***RS**^2+6.151e-04***RS**^3.

Example:

For an RS of **37** (the mean total score) this implies:

6.1e-01+1.89***37**-3.865e-02***37**^2+6.151e-04***37**^3 =

6.1e-01+1.89***37**-3.865e-02*1369+6.151e-04*50653 =

70.54 – 52.91 +31.15 = 48.78, which approximates T = 50.

This formula can be implemented in Microsoft Office Excel or other statistical/computational software, such as R.

Interpretation of standardised normalised total score and cut-off values

Based on normalised T-scores, we recommend a cut-off value of T ≤ 44 for a challenged PDR, 45 ≤ T ≤ 56 for an average PDR, and T > 56 for a good PDR. A Table with cut-off values for both raw scores and T-scores is provided here.

Raw score	T-score	Interpretation
RS < 23	T < 30	severely challenged
23 ≤ RS ≤ 30	30 ≤ T ≤ 39	moderately challenged
31 ≤ RS ≤ 34	40 ≤ T ≤ 44	mildly challenged
35 ≤ RS ≤ 42	45≤ T ≤ 56	average
42 < RS	56 < T	good

Citation for use of the PDRQ-9:

Van der Feltz-Cornelis CM, Van Oppen P, Van Marwijk HW, De Beurs E, Van Dyck R. A patient-doctor relationship questionnaire (PDRQ-9) in primary care: development and psychometric evaluation. Gen Hosp Psychiatry. 2004 Mar-Apr;26(2):115-20. doi: 10.1016/j.genhosppsych.2003.08.010. PMID: 15038928.

Citation for use of cut-off values and standardised normalised score:

Van Der Feltz-Cornelis CM and de Beurs E (2026) The patient-doctor relationship questionnaire (PDRQ-9). An overview of 20 years of research and a proposal for normalisation of scores. Systematic review. Front. Health Serv. 6:1754286. doi: 10.3389/frhs.2026.1754286