### Assessment Overview

#### Assessment Area

**ICF Domain:**
- Quality of Life

#### Summary

The Satisfaction with Life Scale (SWLS) is a generic self-report quality of life scale, designed to address the concept of life satisfaction as a whole rather than to assess satisfaction with sub-dimensions of life (Diener et al. 1985). It measures the “discrepancy or balance” between one’s life achievements and expectations. Participants respond to the items of the SWLS on a 7-point Likert scale, ranging from strongly disagree (1) to strongly agree (7). One item on the questionnaire is potentially sensitive.

#### You Will Need

**Length:**
- 5 minutes, 5 items

**Scoring:**
- Items scored 1-7. Total score (5-35) is sum of all items.

#### Availability

- [http://internal.psychology.illinois.edu/~ediener/SWLS.html](http://internal.psychology.illinois.edu/~ediener/SWLS.html)

**Languages:** English and many other languages

### Assessment Interpretability

#### Minimal Clinically Important Difference

Not established in SCI

#### Statistical Error

**Standard Error of Measurement:**
- 4.67

**Minimal Detectable Change:**
- 12.95
  - (Calculated from Dijkers 1999, N=2183, 1766 male, mixed injury types, 1-20 years post-SCI)

#### Typical Values

**Mean (SD) Values:**
- Item 1: 3.76(2.06)
- Item 2: 3.75(2.01)
- Item 3: 4.34(2.02)
- Item 4: 4.28(2.01)
- Item 5: 3.29(2.10)
- Total: 19.4(7.9)

(NSCID records; Dijkers 1999; N=2183, 1766 male, mixed injury types, 1-20 years post-SCI)

**Threshold Values:**
- Very high satisfaction: 35-30
- High satisfaction: 29-25
- Average satisfaction: 24-20
- Slightly below average: 19-15
- Dissatisfied: 14-10
- Extremely dissatisfied: 9-5

(Diener 2006)
### Measurement Properties

#### Validity – **Low** to **High**

**High** correlation with Assistive Technology Device Predisposition Assessment (ATD-PA) QOL Subset:
Correlation = 0.89

**High** correlation with Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI):
Correlation = -0.64
(Scherer & Cushman, 2001; N=20, 10 male, mixed injury types, acute SCI)

**Low** to **Moderate** correlation with Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9):
PHQ Affective subscore correlation = -0.368 to -0.463
PHQ Somatic subscore correlation = -0.248 to -0.346
(Richardson & Richards, 2008; N=2570, traumatic SCI, mixed injury types, 1-25 years post-injury)

**Number of studies reporting validity data:** 7

#### Reliability – **Moderate** to **High**

**Moderate** Test-retest Reliability:
Correlation = 0.65
(93-626 day interval, median 347 days; Dijkers 1999; N=165, mixed injury types, 1-20 years post-SCI)

**High** Internal Consistency:
$\alpha = 0.92$
(Krause et al., 2009; N=727; 70.2% male, traumatic SCI, mixed injury types, mean time since injury = 18.2 years)

**Number of studies reporting reliability data:** 4

### Responsiveness

#### Floor/Ceiling Effect:
Not established in SCI

#### Effect Size:
Not established in SCI

#### Number of studies reporting responsiveness data:** 0