

eMeasures

The eMeasures is a dynamic web-based computerized assisted psychiatric interview (CAPI) that is administered using a tablet pc. The eMeasures is not a static software product (e.g., CD). The eMeasures currently is comprised of two tools: the eMeasures interview and the eMeasures coding tool. A third tool, the eMeasures report, is not yet developed. The eMeasures interview is downloaded from the server and administered (off line) using a tablet PC. The tablet PC enables the interviewer to take free hand (not hand writing recognition) descriptions of symptoms during the interview, a key aspect of the PAPA approach. As with the paper version of the PAPA, the eMeasures is coded by the interviewer after the interview is completed. The interviewer codes the interview using the eMeasures coding tool. The coding validation algorithms are embedded in the coding tool so that the interviewer will not be able to choose codes that don't make logical sense (e.g. to have a zero frequency for a positive symptoms or an onset date earlier than the child's birth). Currently, when the eMeasures has been coded and checked back into the eMeasures server, the Duke technical and analytic staff will convert the eMeasures data into a SAS database and then run the DSM-IV/DC: 0-3R/RDC-PA diagnostic algorithms developed by Dr. Egger. This will not be done for individual interviews but rather at predetermined intervals. This will produce a dataset with both the raw eMeasures variables and the diagnostic variables including specific psychiatric symptoms, scale scores, and diagnoses, impairment from psychiatric symptoms, life events, family structure and functioning and other risk factors and demographic information endorsed by the parent about his/her child. This SAS dataset can be converted into a SPSS or STATA dataset using DBMS copy.

If a research group wants to administer the paper version of the PAPA, the eMeasures can be used (using any PC not necessarily a tablet PC) as the data entry system.

In the future (when funding can be obtained), we also have an eMeasures report tool. This is how the report function will work: When the eMeasures has been coded and checked back into the eMeasures server, the interview will be automatically analyzed with the DSM-IV/DC: 0-3R/RDC-PA diagnostic algorithms and a report will be generated detailing the psychiatric symptoms, scale scores, and diagnoses, impairment from psychiatric symptoms, life events and other risk factors and demographic information endorsed by the parent about his/her child. This will be very useful for (1) clinical settings (2) studies using consensus clinical diagnostic processes and (3) selecting subjects for studies or nested cohorts within an on-going study.

The PAPA/eMeasures requires training: 4 days either at Duke or with our trainer at your site. Ed Potts (epotts@psych.duhs.duke.edu) and Letitia Huger (lhuger@psych.duhs.duke.edu) provide training. After training, interviewers must complete at least two training interviews. Additional costs associated with using the paper PAPA or the eMeasures, as well as training costs, are outlined in a separate document

The PAPA has been translated into Norwegian, Romanian, Spanish (under development), and Italian. A French Canadian version will be developed soon. We have an electronic version of the Norwegian PAPA (Norwegian eMeasures). Researchers interested in developing a translation of the PAPA should also contact Dr. Egger.

We are currently developing a version of the PAPA to be used to assess psychiatric symptoms and disorders that are not considered part of the core diagnostic pattern of autism or other pervasive developmental disorders (PDDs) in preschoolers with autism or other PDDs. This version will be called the PAPA-PDD.

The PAPA (and eMeasures) can be modularized to fit the specific needs of a study or clinic.

The Center for Developmental Epidemiology (CDE) also has CAPI version of the Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Interview (CAPA)[6, 7] and the Young Adult Psychiatric Interview (YAPA)[8] which assess the same domains in older children, adolescents and young adults so that prospective, longitudinal studies can use a similar psychiatric interview across the childhood and into early adulthood. We also have a CAPI version of the Child and Adolescent Impact Assessment (CAIA formerly know as the CABA), an interview about the impact of the child's symptoms on the family and parental functioning.[9-11] The CAIA can be used with parents of children as young as two years old. The CDE also has an interview that assesses service use for children and adolescents with psychiatric disorders, the Child and Adolescent Services Assessment (CASA).[12, 13] The CASA has not yet been computerized or revised for use with preschoolers.