

Overview of FS-ICU item recoding

Instructions: Five items have discontinuous response options and must be recoded into ordinal scales, and linearly transformed to have the same response values as the rest of the FS-ICU. Three items must be recoded as dichotomous variables (#26, 27, 32). Two items must be recoded to a Likert-3 scale (#25, 30). For SPSS users, we provide a recoding syntax file. If you develop a recoding algorithm in another software platform, please forward to us and we will post it on this website.

Of note, only 1 of these recoded items is actually in the 24-item FS-ICU (#32). Since users may wish to administer the other items in their own ICU, however, we have provided recoding instructions for all 5 items.

Item #26: *Did you receive an appropriate amount of information to participate in the decision making process?*

The respondent chooses from 3 options (“too much information,” “just enough information,” “too little information”). Giving family members “just enough information” is the best situation. The remaining two options are equivalent because neither is more desirable than the other.

NOTE: This item was dropped from the 24-item FS-ICU.

Item #27: *Did you feel you had enough time to think about the information provided?*

The respondent chooses from 3 options (“could have used more time to think,” “had enough time to think,” “had more than enough time to think”). Having enough time or more than enough time are the best situations, and equivalent. The remaining option is less desirable.

NOTE: This item was dropped from the 24-item FS-ICU.

Item #32: *When making decisions, did you have adequate time to have your concerns addressed and questions answered?*

The respondent chooses from 3 options (“could have used more time,” “had adequate time,” “had more than enough time”). Having adequate time or more than enough time are the best situations, and equivalent. The remaining option is less desirable.

NOTE: This item is in the 24-item FS-ICU.

Item #25: *Were you involved at the right time in the decision-making process?*

The respondent chooses from 5 options (“involved far too late,” “involved a little too late,” “involved at the right time,” “involved a little too early,” “involved far too early”). Being involved at the right time is the best situation. Being involved far too late or far too early are the least desirable options, and equivalent. Being involved a little too late or a little too early are intermediate options, and equivalent.

NOTE: This item was dropped from the 24-item FS-ICU.

Item #30: *Were you given the right amount of hope that your family member would recover?*

The respondent chooses from 5 options (“not given any hope,” “given too little hope,” “given right amount of hope,” “given a bit too much hope,” “given far too much hope”). Being given the right amount of hope is the best situation. Being given no hope or far too much hope are the least desirable options, and equivalent. Being given too little or a bit too much hope are intermediate options, and equivalent.

NOTE: This item was dropped from the 24-item FS-ICU.