



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE ENSURING SPEECH UNDERSTANDING (ESU) FORM for Visits 8 and 10

I. General Instructions

The Ensuring Speech Understanding form is collected to determine the appropriate loudness the psychometrist should use during the neurocognitive exam. The general instructions for the ESU are the same as those for the neurocognitive exam captured on the NCS form. Please review section III.A of the NCS_CO_QxQ for details.

The instructions in this QxQ also apply for the ARIC Generation 2 Study.

Detailed Instructions for Each Item

0a. Enter the date the participant was tested.

0b. Enter the staff ID for the person who did the interview.

The following instructions may also be found in section III.A. of the NCS_CO_QxQ.

1. Administration for Trial 1

- a) Participant will be examined in a quiet room with the examiner facing the participant. Background noise should be minimized.
- b) Participant should use any sensory aids they would normally use.
- c) Introduce the test: **"We are going to do a quick exercise to ensure that you can hear me. Listen carefully because I am going to read you several sentences. After I read each sentence try to repeat out loud as much of the sentence as possible."**
- d) If the participant understands the instructions, say: **"The first sentence is..."**
- e) Read each sentence from Trial 1 slowly, about 2-3 seconds articulating clearly with normal inflections. No repetitions are allowed.
- f) If the participant does not understand the instructions, repeat the instructions for Trial 1.
- g) Examiner should read sentences at a pace and volume commensurate with normal neurocognitive testing.
- h) It is important that pace and volume be maintained throughout Trial 1 regardless of the participant's performance.

2. Scoring

- a) Circle and sum the CAPITALIZED words that are repeated correctly.
- b) If total score for Trial 1 ≥ 13 : STOP ESU and proceed with neurocognitive testing per protocol.
- c) If total score for Trial 1 ≤ 12 : proceed with Trial 2 using a slightly louder and lower tone of voice.

3. Administration for Trial 2

- a) Read each sentence from Trial 2 slowly, about 2-3 seconds, articulating clearly with normal inflections. No repetitions are allowed.
- b) Examiner should read sentences at the same pace but in a slightly louder and lower tone of voice. Pace and volume should be maintained throughout Trial 2.

4. Scoring

- a) Circle and sum the CAPITALIZED words that are repeated correctly.
- b) If total score for Trial 2 ≥ 13 : proceed with neurocognitive testing using a slightly louder and lower tone of voice.
- c) If total score for Trial 2 ≤ 12 : proceed with neurocognitive testing using a slightly louder and lower tone of voice and supplement verbal instructions with written prompts.
- d) Plurals and tense changes are admissible (e.g., “The players lose their shoes” would receive 3 pts.).