



INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SEMI-ANNUAL FOLLOW-UP GENERAL INTERVIEW QUESTIONS (10/31/2012) (GNB, VERSION 1, 10/31/2012)

I. General Instructions

The semi-annual follow-up general interview questions (GNB) are completed during the semi-annual follow up interview following the semi-annual follow-up core questions (SAF). The GNB interview is **not** administered to proxy respondents or contacts who answer the SAF questions about the ARIC study participant, nor is the GNB interview administered to ARIC participants who refuse the SAF.

II. Detailed Instructions for Each Item

- 0a. Enter the date of the interview. This date should fall between the scheduling windows on the Participant Tracing Report.
- 0b. Enter the staff ID for the telephone follow-up interviewer ID.

A. Living Circumstances

Script: “Now I would like to ask you a question about your living arrangements. Do you currently live with anyone, such as a family member or a friend, or do you live alone?”

- 1. Please read the question as stated above. Some participants may be reluctant to let others know that they live alone. It is acceptable for a participant to refuse to answer this question. A participant who lives in a retirement community, assisted living, or nursing facility is not living alone. If asked why we would like to know about their living circumstances, you may respond that we asked this question during Visit 2 and now would like to ask it again. We are interested in how the change in living circumstances may affect cardiovascular health.

B. Physical Ability

Script: “These next few questions ask about how well you typically function on your own, which is without help from another person or special equipment such as a cane or walker. For each activity I mention, please tell me whether you are able to perform this activity with no difficulty, with some difficulty or are you not able to do.”

Examples of special equipment include canes, walkers, lift chairs, motorized beds. If the device is used to aid in physical mobility, e.g. walking, balance, transferring in and out of bed or chairs, it is considered special equipment. Because the participant does not have response cards, read the response options for each following activity (questions 2 – 13) until you are confident the participant recalls the response categories (no difficulty, some difficulty, unable to do it; if some, then further define difficulty level (a little or much/a lot)). If in the course of asking about the remaining physical activities the participant provides answers that deviate from the response categories requested, repeat the refrain (Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, or you are unable to do it?”), or use another form of probing. The most helpful type of probing in this case would be channeling, such as “If you had to choose, which would you say: No difficulty, some

difficulty, or you are unable to do it?" If a neutral form of channeling does not work it may be necessary to bracket the perceived level of difficulty reflected in the participant's response, such as, "does that mean a little difficulty or much difficulty ..."? As for any interviewing technique, do not suggest an answer or paraphrase the respondent's words. If participants have difficulty understanding or hearing "much", the interviewer may use the wording "a lot" instead.

Participants who use assistance or special equipment should be queried about the degree of difficulty if/when they do NOT have assistance from another person or special equipment. The assumption in these situations is that the first response (e.g. no difficulty, some difficulty, unable, don't know/do not do) would be "some" or "unable", else they would not require assistance. Some respondents may say they use equipment intermittently but do not need it because of difficulty, or "I just keep a cane, but I don't need it". The interviewer should repeat the possible responses, "**Would you say that you have no difficulty or some difficulty without the (cane/equipment)?**"

If participant responds that "I don't do that", the interviewer should probe to determine if this is due to a health or physical problem. For example, for managing bills or cooking, if the participant responds "My wife does that", ask "**Is that because you are not able to (prepare meals or manage the bills/bill paying)?**" If the answer is "No, I just don't do it & have never done it," choose "Don't know or do not do". However, if s/he says, "I can't keep up with that anymore," or "my arthritis is so bad my daughter started doing it", choose "Unable to do".

C. Fatigue

Script: "Next I will ask you about how often you have felt tired in the past 7 days. There are 5 possible answers to choose from: never, rarely, sometimes, often, or always."

The questions 14-18 aim to evaluate the extent to which a person has felt tired in the past week. Please read the text preceding the questions. Please add that you will repeat the answer categories for each of the five questions. The participant will not have response cards, therefore reading the response options will be very important.

The format of these questions is similar to the format of the questions that the ARIC study participants encountered as part of the sAFU GEN version 1 form. Selection of the most appropriate response category may be difficult for some study participants. It is suggested that the interviewer read each question in the following manner:

Q14. "In the past 7 days, how often did you feel tired? Would you say "never", "rarely", "sometimes", "often, or "always"?"

If the participant provides answers that deviate from the response categories requested, repeat the refrain (Would you say "never", "rarely", "sometimes", "often, or "always"?), or use another form of probing. The most helpful type of probing in this case would be channeling, such as "If you had to choose, which would you say: "never", "rarely", "sometimes", "often, or "always"?. If a neutral form of channeling does not work it may be necessary to bracket the perceived level of difficulty reflected in the participant's response, such as, "does that mean that you never felt tired, rarely felt tired ..."? As for any interviewing technique, do not suggest an answer or paraphrase the respondent's words.

D. Falls

19. Ask the participant if they have fallen in the past 6 months. If they answer “yes” proceed to question 20. If they answer “No” or “Do not remember” then they are finished with this form.

20. Ask the participant “In the past 6 months, how many times did you fall?” The answers are 1-5; 6 or more or “Do not remember”.

Read the following scrip as a transition to asking questions 21-23 UNLESS the response to question 20 is ‘1’.

Script

“Now I am going to ask you about the fall that you thought was the most serious.”

If a participant ask what “most serious” means, indicate that a fall that may have resulted in an injury, medical treatment or a physician visit. If they did not sustain an injury or need medical treatment, then ask them to select one of the falls that they best remember.

If the response to question 20 is not ‘1’, questions 21-23 pertain to the most serious fall only

21-22. The answers are Yes, No, or Do not remember.

23. It is imperative that the participant’s answers be brief. We are striving to ascertain TWO pieces of information here including: What activity they were engaged in when they fell, AND what primary factor contributed to the fall.

Here are examples of activities that they may have been engaged in, as well as factors that may have contributed to the fall.

For example:

- walking inside and the floor was wet.
- climbing a ladder and my legs gave out
- doing household chores and I tripped
- Walking up the steps and tripped, my slippers are too loose