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| **Domain:** | Social Environments |
| **Measure:** | Family Interpersonal Relationships |
| **Definition:** | This measure is a questionnaire to assess the quality of interpersonal relationships within a family. |
| **Purpose:** | This measure is used to assess each family member's perception of the cohesion (support and commitment), expressiveness, and conflict associated with his or her family. |
| **Essential PhenX Measures:** | Current Age Gender Household Roster-Relationships Current Marital Status |
| **Related PhenX Measures:** | Childhood Maltreatment Family Conflict Family Control and Organization |
| **Collections:** |  |
| **Keywords:** | Social Environments, interpersonal relationships, family, family environment, cohesion, expressiveness, conflict, support, commitment, relationships, Family Environment Scale, proprietary |

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| **Protocol Release Date:** | October 8, 2010 |
| **PhenX Protocol Name:** | Family Interpersonal Relationships |
| **Protocol Name from Source:** | This section will be completed when reviewed by an Expert Review Panel. |
| **Description:** | The Family Interpersonal Relationships protocol includes 27 self-administered, true/false questions from three subscales (Cohesion, Expressiveness, and Conflict) of the Family Environment Scale Fourth Edition. The respondent reviews each item and chooses whether each item is characteristic (true) or not characteristic (false) of his or her family. The Family Environment Scale Manual includes a scoring key for each true/false item. This protocol is appropriate for adults and children aged 11 years and older. |
| **Specific Instructions:** | The Family Environment Scale is a proprietary instrument. Each Family Environment subscale is a part of a complete Family Environment Scale assessment and is not sold separately. To administer a subscale requires a licensing agreement from Mind Garden, Inc. While the Social Environments Working Group recognizes that there are many definitions of family, the Family Environment Scale is intended for use among parents and children. Parents may include both biological and nonbiological (e.g., step- or adoptive) relationships. |
| **Protocol:** | **Summary of the Cohesion, Expressiveness and Conflict Subscales from the Family Environment Scale**  The Family Interpersonal Relationships measure contains three subscales: Cohesion (nine questions), Expressiveness (nine questions), and Conflict (nine questions).  These three subscales tap the degree of commitment and support family members provide for one another, the extent to which family members are encouraged to express their feelings directly, and the amount of openly expressed anger and conflict among family members.  The test booklets feature three types of forms. The Real Form items ask the respondent to describe his or her current family as he or she perceives it. Real Form items can also be used to describe a respondent's past family environment (i.e., childhood environment).  The Ideal Form and Expectations Form allow people to describe the type of family they prefer or their expectations of what a family will be like. The Ideal Form and Expectations Form are typically used in therapeutic settings and are not generally considered for research purposes.  **Scoring Instructions**  Each true/false item is assigned a value of 0 or 1, based on the scoring key. Items are then combined within the three subscales (Cohesion, Expressiveness, and Conflict). To combine these subscales into a single Family Interpersonal Relationships Scale score, the Conflict subscale must first be reverse coded, and then the subscales can be summed or averaged. Higher scores reflect more-positive Family Interpersonal Relationships.  The Social Environments Working Group recommends the use of the raw scores from the Real Form (or their standardized counterparts) that can be further averaged across family members for an overall measure of global family environment. The Family Environments Scale Manual contains directions for creating Family Incongruence scores, based on differences in scores across family members, but these scores are primarily utilized in therapeutic settings and generally are not validated for research.  *Family Environment Scale* Copyright © 2009, Mind Garden, Inc. All rights reserved. |
| **Selection Rationale:** | The Family Environment Scale, Fourth Edition was selected because it is a widely used, validated protocol with available current research on its validity, reliability, and association with outcomes. Additionally, the Family Environment Scale Manual contains detailed data on transforming raw scores into standardized scores based on extensive normative data. Means are also given for various subpopulations (e.g., adults vs. adolescents, distressed vs. nondistressed families, single-parent families, Latino and African-American families). Because the Family Environment Scale assesses general characteristics of the family rather than behaviors in a specific time frame, this measure is appropriate both for assessments of current family environment and retrospective reports of family environment during childhood. |
| **Source:** | Moos, R., & Moos, B. (2009). *Family Environment Scale Manual and Sampler Set: Development, Applications and Research (Fourth Edition)*. Palo Alto, CA: Mind Garden, Inc.  The *Family Environment Scale (Fourth Edition)* is a proprietary instrument and can be obtained through:  Mind Garden, Inc. 855 Oak Grove Ave., Suite 215 Menlo Park, CA 94025 USA Telephone: 650.322.6300 |
| **Life Stage:** | Adolescent Adult |
| **Language of source:** | French, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, English, Arabic, Mandarin Chinese, Danish, Dutch |
| **Participant:** | Adolescents and adults, aged 11 years and older |
| **Personnel and Training Required:** | None |
| **Equipment Needs:** | The respondent will need a copy of the Family Environment Scale and pen or pencil to record the answer. |
| **Standards:** | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Standard** | **Name** | **ID** | **Source** | | Common Data Element (CDE) | Social Environment Family Interpersonal Relationship Assessment Score | 3144970 | [CDE Browser](https://cdebrowser.nci.nih.gov/CDEBrowser/search?elementDetails=9&FirstTimer=0&PageId=ElementDetailsGroup&publicId=3144970&version=1.0) | | Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC) | Fam interpersonal relat proto | 63022-8 | [LOINC](http://s.details.loinc.org/LOINC/63022-8.html?sections=Web) | |
| **General references:** | Moos, R. (1990). Conceptual and empirical approaches to developing family-based assessment procedures: Resolving the case of the Family Environment Scale. *Family Process, 29,* 199–208.  Moos, R., & Moos, B. (1994). *Family Environment Scale Manual: Development, applications, research* (3rd ed.). Palo Alto, CA: Consulting Psychologists Press. |
| **Mode of Administration:** | Self-administered questionnaire |
| **Derived Variables:** | None |
| **Requirements:** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Requirement Category** | **Required** | | Major equipment | No | | Specialized training | No | | Specialized requirements for biospecimen collection | No | | Average time of greater than 15 minutes in an unaffected individual | No | |
| **Process and Review:** | This section will be completed when reviewed by an Expert Review Panel. |