



Guidelines for using the Structured Interview for the SRS (SISRS)

1. Use the SISRS questions as worded. Do not rephrase the questions. If the respondent asks what a question means, say it again more slowly, emphasizing and pausing after each key word.
2. Be careful not to put respondents who are caregivers on the defensive as to whether they are providing adequate supervision, because this is likely to bias their answers. Caregiver-respondents may suspect that you are the hospital checking up on them or that you will tell the hospital about them if you believe that they are not providing sufficient care. To minimize the likelihood of putting caregiver-respondents on the defensive, start off with:

“Now we have some questions about how independent PERSON is.”

3. Record the level of supervision that the person *actually receives as indicated by the SISRS scoring criteria*.
 - a. Even if a caregiver is overly protective and provides more supervision than the person needs, do not record less supervision than the SISRS indicates that the caregiver is providing.
 - b. Even if a caregiver is negligent and is providing less supervision than the person needs, do not record more supervision than the SISRS indicates that the caregiver is providing—not even if lack of supervision has had bad consequences for the participant.
 - c. Even if you know that the SRS score generated by the SISRS is inconsistent with the amount of supervision that the person is actually receiving, record the SRS score provided by the SISRS. (But see #4, below.)
4. If you run into a situation in which the SISRS doesn't seem to apply very well or produces an SRS score that does not accurately indicate the amount of supervision that you know the person is receiving:
 - a. Record the score generated by the SISRS. But, make a note that this score may be changed in the future if the coding instructions for the SISRS are amended to fix this problem.
 - b. Describe on the Data Listserv the situation that resulted in the SISRS producing this inaccurate score, so the problem can be discussed and resolved.