PROGRAMME ON MENTAL HEALTH

WHOQOL User Manual



DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

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WHOQOL User Manual

This manual is intended to help users of the WHOQOL-100 and WHOQOL_BREF in adm inistering and scoring of the instruments. It also describes the process of developing the instruments and their psychometric properties. For further information contact: WHOQOL@who.int



DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION 1998

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PURPOSE OF THIS MANUAL

This manual aims to describe the development and use of the WHOQOL-100 and WHOQOL-BREF quality of life assessments, giving the reader a background on the development of the WHOQOL instruments, describing their psychometric properties and facilitating administration and scoring.

SUMMARY OF WHOQOL INSTRUMENTS

The WHOQOL-100 assesses individuals' perceptions of their position in life in the context of the culture and value systems in which they live and in relation to their goals, expectations, standards and concerns. It was developed collaboratively in some 15 cultural settings over several years and has now been field tested in 37 field centres. It is a 100-question assessment that currently exists in directly comparable forms in 29 language versions. It yields a multi-dimensional profile of scores across domains and sub-domains (facets) of quality of life. More recently, the WHOQOL-BREF, an abbreviated 26 item assessment has been developed.

USES OF THE WHOQOL INSTRUMENTS

The WHOQOL-100 and WHOQOL-BREF have many uses, including use in medical practice, research, audit, policy making and in assessing the effectiveness and relative merits of different treatments. They can also be used to assess variation in quality of life across different cultures, to compare subgroups within the same culture and to measure change across time in response to change in life circumstances.

OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS

The initial chapter describes the rationale for the development of the WHOQOL pilot instrument and the refinement of the original WHOQOL pilot instrument to produce the WHOQOL-100. Chapter 2

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