

**This assessment review was compiled by our students and is intended to be used as a guide in assisting clinicians. We encourage you to review the evaluations and assessments for yourself to guarantee the most accurate and updated information.*

I. General Information

Title of the test: Craig Hospital Inventory of Environmental Factors (CHIEF)

Author: Four separate advisory panels of professionals developed the assessment

Publisher: Craig's Hospital, 1999, edition 3.0 in 2001

Time required to administer: No time limit- plan 10 minutes if self administered, 15 if interviewed

Cost of the Test: Free- contact

<http://www.craighospital.org/Research/Instruments/Disability-Research-Instruments-CHIEF>

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: The Craig Hospital Inventory of Environmental Factors (CHIEF) is an instrument that allows the quantification of Environmental Factors and leads to a better understanding of the degree to which elements of the environment impede or facilitate the lives of people with disabilities.

The CHIEF assesses the frequency and magnitude of perceived physical, attitudinal, and policy barriers that keep people with disabilities from doing what they want or need to do. It is designed to be a short inventory of environmental barriers that can be utilized in large-scale surveys and surveillance systems, and be valid for both individuals with and without disabilities.

The CHIEF can be self-administered, administered by interview, or administered by proxy. It is recommended that proxies only be asked to complete the survey when subjects are unavailable to do it.

Population: Individuals with and without disabilities.

The CHIEF 400 Dataset, the instrument validation study, tested 409 subjects with disabilities ranging from spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and multiple sclerosis to auditory and visual impairments, developmental disorders, and cerebral palsy.

Although designed for adults, it has been adapted for use in pediatric populations 2-12 yrs

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: Very easy. No equipment is required other than a pencil or pen. Can be self-administered or administered by interview, either in person or by telephone.

Clarity of Directions: Very clear- simply answer each question in terms of how often the phenomenon occurs and if it is a big problem or a little problem. The survey is 5 pages long.

Scoring Procedures: Scores are calculated by multiplying each of the 25 items with the frequency score (range :0 to 4) by magnitude (range: 1 to 2) to yield a an overall "impact" score (range: 0-8)

Frequency: frequency with which barriers are encountered

Magnitude: indicates the size of the problem the barrier presents

Frequency magnitude product: Product of frequency X magnitude to determine overall impact of the barrier- higher scores reflect the increased impact of the barrier

Examiner Qualification & Training. No training required. Simply read the manual, which is free and can be found on the Craig's Hospital website:

<http://www.craighospital.org/Research/Instruments/Disability-Research-Instruments-CHIEF>

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: Norms Criterion Referenced Other _____

Reliability: Test-Retest: Excellent (ICC: .926) According to Manual
Interrater/intrarater: Adequate (ICC: .62) According to Rehab Measures Testing
Subject Proxy Agreement: Adequate (ICC .618) Proxy is not recommended

Validity: Not Established in Manual - See following research for construct, content, and criterion validity:

Whiteneck, G., Meade, M. A., et al. (2004). "Environmental factors and their role in participation and life satisfaction after spinal cord injury." Arch Phys Med Rehabil 85(11): 1793-1803. Find it on PubMed

Whiteneck, G. G., Gerhart, K. A., et al. (2004). "Identifying environmental factors that influence the outcomes of people with traumatic brain injury." J Head Trauma Rehabil 19(3): 191-204. Find it on PubMed

Whiteneck, G. G., Harrison-Felix, C. L., et al. (2004). "Quantifying environmental factors: a measure of physical, attitudinal, service, productivity, and policy barriers." Archives of physical medicine and rehabilitation 85(8): 1324-1335. Find it on PubMed

Manual: Excellent Adequate Poor

What is (are) the setting/s that you would anticipate using this assessment?

Home, Community, and Outpatient

Summary of strengths and weaknesses

Weakness:

The CHIEF is an Patient Reported Outcomes type of assessment, therefore, some aspects of the environment may not be observed or may be inaccurately represented.

Doing a home evaluation oneself would be a more affective way of seeing the natural context for occupational performance

After reviewing the assessment manual and existing literature and research, I'm still not sure if this is a norm referenced or criterion referenced assessment. Literature reflects comparisons between groups with the same disability but the manual explains that initial testing was done with a test group including individuals with differing disabilities and without disabilities. It seems most effective to me to be used to compare a single client's changing attitudes towards environmental barriers and support over time.

Strengths:

Quick- around 10 minutes

Easy- no training or certification required

Test-rest reliability is excellent

Can be adapted for younger populations

Free and accessible- the Manual and the Short Form are both available in PDF file here:
<http://www.craighospital.org/research/CHIEF.asp>

Rehab Measures, 2013

<http://www.rehabmeasures.org/Lists/RehabMeasures/DispForm.aspx?ID=979>