

**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: Milwaukee Evaluation of Daily Living Skills (MEDLS)

Author: Carol A. Leonardelli

Publisher: Slack, 1988. Thorofare, NJ.

Time required to administer: Up to two hours, but may be administered in more than one session.

Cost of the Test: \$75-\$275 on Amazon.com

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: The purpose of the MEDLS is to measure the behavioral performance of daily living skills of long-term psychiatric clients who are lower functioning. The MEDLS is made up of 20 subtests, each addressing a different daily living skill. The person administering the evaluation observes the client performing each skill, and reports on their performance. Evaluation results can be used to determine objectives for treatment and also to measure the client's progress.

Population: The MEDLS is designed to be used with lower functioning, chronically mentally ill adults who reside in institutional settings or live in the community and attend day treatment programs. The MEDLS is designed to be used with individuals and not in a group.

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: The MEDLS is simple evaluation to administer and to score. During the evaluation, the client is asked to complete each of the 20 daily living skills subtests, and the person administering the evaluation observes the client. Each of the 20 subtests is broken down into four or more components which the client must complete to get the full score for the performance of the skill. Each subtest on the MEDLS can be completed during one session, or they can be completed over a period of several sessions. The MEDLS has a screening form that can be used as a reminder of what areas need to be focused on, and in which areas the client is already performing well in. This feature enables the evaluator to save time when a full evaluation is not needed. Another feature that makes this evaluation easy to administer is that all subtests are in alphabetical order, making them easy to find in the booklet.

Clarity of Directions: The directions included with the MEDLS are clear and adequate enough that someone unfamiliar with the evaluation would be able to administer and score it with little trouble.

Scoring Procedures: Each subtest in the evaluation is scored independently; there is not a cumulative score for the evaluation. Scores for each subtest are found by determining if the client performs all or some of the components that are necessary to complete the task. If the client performs each of the components, they will receive full points for the skill, but if they do not perform each component they will not receive the full score. For example, brushing teeth involves a) putting toothpaste on brush, b) using proper brushing motions, c) rinsing mouth, and d) cleaning sink area. If the client performs

only three of these components, they will receive a score of 3 on the subtest. Time needed to complete each subtest is also considered when scoring. If the client takes more than the maximum time to complete the subtest, one point is subtracted from the score. Scores for each subtest are then recorded on the scoring form included, which can be placed with the clients records and used as a reference showing the clients strengths and weaknesses.

Examiner Qualification & Training: Qualifications for administering the MEDLS are not listed in the manual. Experience in health care and activity analysis would be useful.

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: ___ Norms X Criterion Referenced ___ Other _____

Reliability: Between .40 and 1.00 for the subtests, most at .80 or above.

Validity: The MEDLS manual does not report validity, but does state that research to determine validity is planned.

Manual: X Excellent ___ Adequate ___ Poor

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

Settings that the MEDLS could be used include Long/Short term institutional settings or in day treatment programs.

Summary of strengths and weaknesses:

Weaknesses:

- This assessment does not take into account the client's physical abilities.
- Time limits for each task may not always be appropriate. Some clients may take a little longer to complete the task successfully.
- This assessment was published in 1988, some of the tasks could be updated.

Strengths:

- Scoring form indicates the client's strengths.
- Administrator is able to see the where clients are deficient and where they are competent by glancing at the score sheet.
- Easy to administer and to score.