Professional Quality of Life Scale (ProQOL)

Compassion Satisfaction and Compassion Fatigue (ProQOL) Version 5 (2009)

When you [help] people you have direct contact with their lives. As you may have found, your compassion for those you [help] can affect you in positive and negative ways. Below are some questions about your experiences, both positive and negative, as a [helper]. Consider each of the following questions about you and your current work situation. Select the number that honestly reflects how frequently you experienced these things in the <u>last 30 days</u>.

I=Nev	ver 2=Rarely	3=Sometimes	4=Often	5=Very Often								
I.	I am happy.											
2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.		ore than one person I [he	lþ].									
3.	I get satisfaction from be											
4.	I feel connected to other											
5.	I jump or am startled by unexpected sounds.											
6.	I feel invigorated after working with those I [help]. I find it difficult to separate my personal life from my life as a [helper].											
	-		<i>.</i>	-								
8.	•	work because I am losing	sleep over trai	umatic experiences								
	of a person I [help].			h a a a [h a h]								
9.	I think that I might have I	been affected by the traum	natic stress of ti	nose i [neip].								
	I feel trapped by my job a Because of my [helping],		et various things									
	I like my work as a [helpe		it various tilligs	.								
13	I feel depressed because	ा. of the traumatic experien	ces of the peop	Je I [helb]								
13.	I feel as though I am exp	eriencing the trauma of so										
—— i.i.	I have beliefs that sustain	_	meone i nave [ncipedj.								
—— 16.	I am pleased with how I a		helbing) techniqi	ues and protocols.								
<u> </u>	I am pleased with how I am able to keep up with [helping] techniques and protocol I am the person I always wanted to be.											
I8.	My work makes me feel											
	I feel worn out because of											
20.	I have happy thoughts an	d feelings about those I [h	elþ] and how I d	could help them.								
21.	I feel overwhelmed becar	use my case [work] load s	eems endless.									
22.	I believe I can make a diff	ference through my work.										
23.		or situations because they	remind me of f	rightening								
	experiences of the peopl											
24.	I am proud of what I can	do to [help].										
25.	As a result of my [helping	g], I have intrusive, frighter	ning thoughts.									
26.	I feel "bogged down" by	the system.										
27.	I have thoughts that I am	a "success" as a [helper].										
28.	I can't recall important pa	arts of my work with trau	ma victims.									
29.	As a result of my [helping I feel "bogged down" by the I have thoughts that I am I can't recall important pollars have the laborated as the same than a very caring person than the same than a second to the same than a very caring person than the same than a very caring person than the same than), 										
30.	I am happy that I chose t	o do this work.										

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PROQOL SELF SCORING WORKSHEET

This worksheet helps you to get an estimate of your score on the ProQOL. To make it easy for you to use on your own, scores are grouped into high, average and low. If your score falls close to the border between categories, you may find that you fit into one group better than the other. The scores are estimates of your compassion satisfaction and fatigue. It is important that you use this information to assist you in understanding how your professional quality of life is, not to set you into one category or the other. The ProQOL is not a medical test and should not be used for diagnosis.

What is my score and what does it mean?

In this section, you will score your test and then you can compare your score to the interpretation below.

Scoring

- I. Be certain you respond to all items.
- 2. Go to items 1, 4, 15, 17 and 29 and reverse your score. For example, if you scored the item 1, write a 5 beside it. We ask you to reverse these scores because we have learned that the test works better if you reverse these scores.

You Wrote	Change to
I	5
2	4
3	3
4	2
5	I

To find your score on **Compassion Satisfaction**, add your scores on questions 3, 6, 12, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 27, 30.

The sum of my Compassion Satisfaction questions was	So My Score Equals	My Level of Compassion Satisfaction
22 or less	43 or less	Low
Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average
42 or more	57 or more	High

To find your score on **Burnout**, add your scores questions 1, 4, 8, 10, 15, 17, 19, 21, 26 and 29. Find your score on the table below.

The sum of my Burnout questions	So My Score Equals	My Level of Burnout
22 or less	43 or less	Low
Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average
42 or more	57 or more	High

To find your score on **Secondary Traumatic Stress**, add your scores on questions 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 23, 25, 28. Find your score on the table below.

The sum of my Secondary	So My Score Equals	1y Level of Secondary		
Traumatic Stress questions		Traumatic Stress		
22 or less	43 or less	Low		
Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average		
42 or more	57 or more	High		

YOUR SCORES ON THE PROQOL: PROFESSIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE

Based on your responses, your personal scores are below. If you have any concerns, you should discuss them with a physical or mental health care professional.

Compassior	Satisfaction	

Compassion satisfaction is about the pleasure you derive from being able to do your work well. For example, you may feel like it is a pleasure to help others through your work. You may feel positively about your colleagues or your ability to contribute to the work setting or even the greater good of society. Higher scores on this scale represent a greater satisfaction related to your ability to be an effective caregiver in your job.

The average score is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .88). About 25% of people score higher than 57 and about 25% of people score below 43. If you are in the higher range, you probably derive a good deal of professional satisfaction from your position. If your scores are below 40, you may either find problems with your job, or there may be some other reason—for example, you might derive your satisfaction from activities other than your job.

В	ur	'n	o	u	t						

Most people have an intuitive idea of what burnout is. From the research perspective, burnout is one of the elements of compassion fatigue. It is associated with feelings of hopelessness and difficulties in dealing with work or in doing your job effectively. These negative feelings usually have a gradual onset. They can reflect the feeling that your efforts make no difference, or they can be associated with a very high workload or a non-supportive work environment. Higher scores on this scale mean that you are at higher risk for burnout.

The average score on the burnout scale is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .75). About 25% of people score above 57 and about 25% of people score below 43. If your score is below 18, this probably reflects positive feelings about your ability to be effective in your work. If you score above 57 you may wish to think about what at work makes you feel like you are not effective in your position. Your score may reflect your mood; perhaps you were having a "bad day" or are in need of some time off. If the high score persists or if it is reflective of other worries, it may be a cause for concern.

Secondary Traumatic Stress_____

The second component of Compassion Fatigue (CF) is secondary traumatic stress (STS). It is about your work-related, secondary exposure to extremely or traumatically stressful events. Developing problems due to exposure to other's trauma is somewhat rare but does happen to many people who care for those who have experienced extremely or traumatically stressful events. For example, you may repeatedly hear stories about the traumatic things that happen to other people, commonly called Vicarious Traumatization. You may see or provide treatment to people who have experienced horrific events. If your work puts you directly in the path of danger, for example due to your work as a emergency medical personnel, a disaster responder or as a medicine personnel, this is not secondary exposure; your exposure is primary. However, if you are exposed to others' traumatic events as a result of your work, such as providing care to people who have sustained emotional or physical injuries, this is secondary exposure. The symptoms of STS are usually rapid in onset and associated with a particular event. They may include being afraid, having difficulty sleeping, having images of the upsetting event pop into your mind, or avoiding things that remind you of the event.

The average score on this scale is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .81). About 25% of people score below 43 and about 25% of people score above 57. If your score is above 57, you may want to take some time to think about what at work may be frightening to you or if there is some other reason for the elevated score. While higher scores do not mean that you do have a problem, they are an indication that you may want to examine how you feel about your work and your work environment. You may wish to discuss this with your supervisor, a colleague, or a health care professional.

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