MINIMALLY IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE (MID) OF THE EQ-5D-5L INDEX SCORE

Preliminary guidance on the interpretation of EQ-5D-5L index scores
September 2016

EQ-5D-5L index score scale using Canadian Scoring Algorithm

What is the MID?
• The minimally important difference (MID) represents the smallest difference or change in an outcome measure score that would be considered important.

What is the EQ-5D-5L index score?
• The EQ-5D is one of the most commonly used generic health status measures in the world.

• In the EQ-5D-5L, a patient’s health state is described using 5 levels of problems (1 = no problems, 2 = slight, 3 = moderate, 4 = severe, 5 = extreme) on 5 dimensions of health:
  o Mobility
  o Self-Care
  o Usual Activities
  o Pain/Discomfort
  o Anxiety/Depression

• The health state is converted to an index score using the Canadian scoring algorithm\(^1\).

How was the MID estimate determined?
• We applied a novel approach to estimate the MID values, using the levels and dimensions of the EQ5D instrument itself to show the smallest change in the index score.

• We considered all possible 3125 EQ-5D-5L health states, estimating the MID based on simulated data.

• We are now comparing and validating these MID estimates against multiple samples of real EQ5D data from the Albertan population.

How can an MID be used?
• The MID captures the magnitude of difference or change in a health status measure beyond statistical significance, and the value patients place on change.

• MID values can help interpret change in a patient’s health status, or the differences in health status between populations or as a result of a health intervention.

Preliminary estimates\(^2\) suggest that the MID of the EQ-5D-5L index score for the Canadian scoring algorithm will be in the range of 0.037 to 0.056

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