

## Medicines Partnership Project Evaluation Toolkit

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### Assessment tool T09

<b>Name of tool</b>	<b>Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire (BMQ)</b>
<b>What does it assess?</b>	Patients' views about particular prescribed medicines and medicines in general. (A detailed description of the tool is given below.)
<b>Who fills it in?</b>	The patient. Disease-specific versions are available for a range of conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, HIV) and versions assessing the beliefs of patients' partners and parents are also available.
<b>Reference for tool</b>	Horne R, Weinman J, and Hankins M (1999): The Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire: The development and evaluation of a new method for assessing the cognitive representation of medication. <i>Psychology and Health</i> , 14, 1–24.
<b>Tool developer's contact details</b>	Professor Rob Horne University of Brighton <a href="mailto:r.horne@bton.ac.uk">r.horne@bton.ac.uk</a> or <a href="http://www.teqs.co.uk">www.teqs.co.uk</a>
<b>Do you have to contact the developer(s) for permission to use it?</b>	Yes
<b>Information you need to give the developer(s)</b>	Please contact the tool developer
<b>How much does it cost to use it?</b>	For some projects a fee may be required. This will depend on how the project is funded and why it is being carried out. Please contact the tool developer for more details.
<b>Specific instructions:</b>	None

## Beliefs About Medicines BMQ

The Beliefs about Medicines Questionnaire (BMQ) has been shown to be valid and reliable across a range of clinical conditions including asthma, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease and cancer. It assesses some of the key influencing adherence to prescribed medication. The BMQ is split into two sections:

- 1 The **BMQ-Specific** assesses patients' beliefs about medication prescribed for a particular illness and comprises two 5-item scales assessing personal beliefs about the *necessity* of prescribed medication for controlling their illness and *concerns* about the potential adverse consequences of taking it.
- 2 The **BMQ-General** comprises two 4-item scales that deal with more general views about medicines as a whole. The *general-overuse* scale addresses views about the way in which medicines are used by doctors and assesses personal beliefs about the extent to which doctors place too much emphasis and trust in medicines. The *general-harm* scale assesses beliefs about the intrinsic properties of medicines and the degree to which they are perceived as essentially harmful.

The BMQ items were derived from qualitative studies.

Respondents indicate their degree of agreement with each individual statement about medicines on a 5 point Likert scale, ranging from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. Scores obtained for the individual items within each scale are summed to give a scale score. Higher scores indicate stronger beliefs in the concepts represented by the scale. Total scores for the BMQ-Specific scales (*necessity* and *concerns*), range from 5 to 25. The BMQ-General scales (*general-overuse* and *general-harm*) range from 4 to 16.

The BMQ has been used by over 50 research groups with translations in eight languages.

Disease-specific versions are available for a range of conditions including:

- Asthma
- Myocardial infarction
- Hypertension
- Marfan syndrome
- Heart failure
- Diabetes (Type 1 and Type II)
- Kidney disease/Renal transplantation
- Depression
- Arthritis and rheumatic disorders
- HIV/AIDS
- Analgesics

Versions for partners and parents are also available

The BMQ is copyrighted. Permission to use the scale can be obtained from Professor Rob Horne at the University of Brighton ([r.horne@bton.ac.uk](mailto:r.horne@bton.ac.uk) or [www.teqs.co.uk](http://www.teqs.co.uk)).