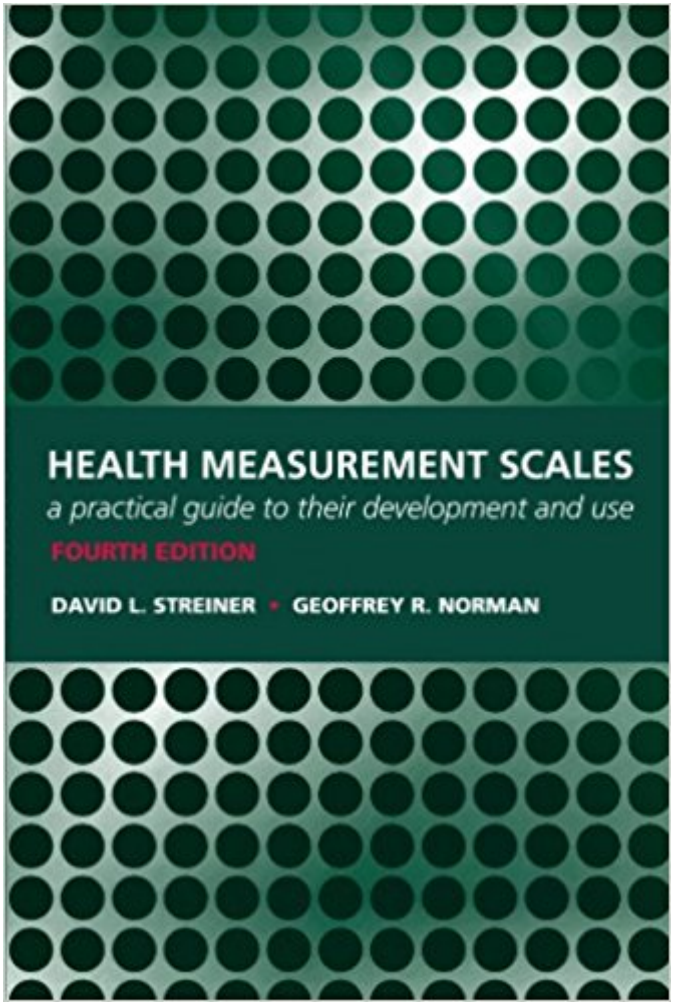
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Health Measurement Scales: A Practical Guide To Their Development And Use



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Synopsis

Clinicians and those in health sciences are frequently called upon to measure subjective states such as attitudes, feelings, quality of life, educational achievement and aptitude, and learning style in their patients. This fourth edition of Health Measurement Scales enables these groups who often have limited knowledge of statistics, to both develop scales to measure non-tangible health outcomes, and better evaluate and differentiate between existing tools. It covers how the individual items are developed; various biases that can affect responses (eg social desirability, yea-saying, framing); various response options; how to select the best items in the set; how to combine them into a scale; and then how to determine the reliability and validity of the scale. It concludes with a discussion of ethical issues that may be encountered, and guidelines for reporting the results of the scale development process. Appendices include a comprehensive guide to finding existing scales, and a brief introduction to exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis. It synthesizes the theory of scale construction with practical advice, making it the ultimate guide to how to develop and validate measurement scales that are to be used in the health sciences.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book is a useful resource that should have a fairly broad appeal for researchers needing to develop new measurement scales, researchers who need to critically appraise literature concerned with measurement tools, and anyone interested in an accessible overview of important measurement issues and methods. The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry The text is well laid out with

chapters covering basic concepts, devising the items, scaling responses, methods of administration and ethical considerations being easy to read. Occupational Medicine This is a book that can be used as a key reference book by those who wish to study qualitative change in health status by the use of scales. Occupational Medicine

David Streiner attended the City College of New York, and then did his graduate work in clinical psychology at Syracuse University. In 1968, he joined the newly-formed Department of Psychiatry at McMaster University, and became the Chief Psychologist at the McMaster University Medical Centre. In 1980, he also became a member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster, and was the Deputy Chair of CE&B for two years. He was one of the founding editors of Evidence-based Mental Health, and is currently editor of the Statistical Developments and Applications section of the Journal of Personality Assessment, as well as being on the editorial board of numerous other journals. Geoff Norman attended the University of Manitoba as an undergraduate, graduating with an honours degree in physics in 1965. He did graduate work in nuclear physics, obtaining a PhD in 1970. At that point he began a career in health sciences education, and subsequently obtained an M.A. in educational psychology from Michigan State University in 1977. He joined the faculty at McMaster in 1977, and has remained at McMaster for the next three decades. He has won numerous awards in medical education, including the Hubbard Award of the National Board of Medical Examiners (US), and lifetime achievement awards from the Medical Council of Canada and the American Educational Research Association, among others. In 2001, he was awarded a Canada Research Chair. In 2007, he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada. He has published over 200 papers in education, epidemiology, psychiatry and physics, as well as authoring and editing several books.

As others have said, this is a beautifully written book that is full of practical advice on developing an new health scale/instrument but beyond that advice this has wonderful chapters on statistics. It has the most readable chapter on reliability I have seen (and also good coverage of generality theory and item response theory). In addition to lucid prose, the references are perfect for people who know only a little statistics (or even if you know a lot outside of this area). For example, the concepts of statistical reliability are explained and then popular options including Pearson correlation, kappa, Intra-class correlation (ICC) and Bland Altman methods are each is given a page or two. So, if you are struggling with what method to use to assess reliability start here and then hit the references that they suggest (Weir 2005 for this example). Basically this is the first book a clinical investigator

should pick up if they want to develop an instrument/scale.

I really like this book and wish that I'd found out about it before my psychometrics class in the spring started, because I would have assigned it in a heartbeat. It's got a lot of the kind of practical advice that anyone thinking of creating a scale REALLY needs to hear first, including the #1 bit of advice: Should you make one yourself? For instance, excellent summaries of the work on scale usage biases by Jon Krosnick, Norbert Schwartz, etc., give useful cautionary information for scale constructors. I have a few disagreements---some of the advice about procedures such as some of the scaling methods they mention is out of date, for instance, and the chapters on factor analysis and IRT are a bit weak, but I can cover that with other material. It certainly doesn't detract from the value of the book overall and I've learned a bunch I didn't know reading it. It'll be on the syllabus next time!

A really good source book for measurement of health. Comprehensive guide to provide a researcher with tools to measure reliability and validity of their measuring instrument.

The book is extremely well written by people that know their field. For people interested in psychometry it gives a new perspective applying psychometrics in the health sciences. I found many applications and suggestions that were very useful.

Excellent resource. Important new material since 3rd ed.

Fast shipment and great book!

This is undoubtedly, one of the best books I have read in this area. The authors follow an appropriate sequence in terms of addressing scale development, testing and analyses issues. The best thing about the book is that it is really easy to comprehend and covers all the important areas. I feel it is a "must buy" for professionals in the area of health-related quality of life and outcomes research.

This book is definally the best one in the field, it is clear and provides all information about psychometry.

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