

Clinical Global Impression (CGI)

Reference: Guy W, editor. *ECDEU Assessment Manual for Psychopharmacology*. 1976. Rockville, MD, U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare

Rating Clinician-rated

Administration time Varies with familiarity with patient

Main purpose To provide a global rating of illness severity, improvement and response to treatment

Population Adults

Commentary

Amongst the most widely used of extant brief assessment tools in psychiatry, the CGI is a 3-item observer-rated scale that measures illness severity (CGIS), global improvement or change (CGIC) and therapeutic response. The illness severity and improvement sections of the instrument are used more frequently than the therapeutic response section in both clinical and research settings. The Early Clinical Drug Evaluation Program (ECDEU) version of the CGI (reproduced here) is the most widely used format, and asks that the clinician rate the patient relative to their past experience with other patients with the same diagnosis, with or without collateral information. Several alternative versions of the CGI have been developed, however, such as the FDA Clinicians' Interview-Based Impression of Change (CIBIC), which uses only information collected during the interview, not collateral. The CGI has proved to be a robust measure of efficacy in many clinical drug trials, and is easy and quick to administer, provided that the clinician knows the patient well.

Scoring

The CGI is rated on a 7-point scale, with the severity of illness scale using a range of responses from 1 (normal) through to 7 (amongst the most severely ill patients). CGI-C scores range from 1 (very much improved) through to 7 (very much worse). Treatment response

ratings should take account of both therapeutic efficacy and treatment-related adverse events and range from 0 (marked improvement and no side-effects) and 4 (unchanged or worse and side-effects outweigh the therapeutic effects). Each component of the CGI is rated separately; the instrument does not yield a global score.

Versions

CGI for bipolar disorder (CGI-BD), FDA Clinicians' Interview-Based Impression of Change (CIBIC), Clinicians' Interview-Based Impression of Change-Plus (CIBIC+), NYU CIBIC+, Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals Clinical Interview-Based Impression (CIBI); the CGI has been translated into most languages.

Additional references

Leon AC, Shear MK, Klerman GL, Portera L, Rosenbaum JF, Goldenberg I. A comparison of symptom determinants of patient and clinician global ratings in patients with panic disorder and depression. *J Clin Psychopharmacol* 1993; 13(5):327–31.

Spearing MK, Post RM, Leverich GS, Brandt D, Nolen W. Modification of the Clinical Global Impressions (CGI) Scale for use in bipolar illness (BP): the CGI-BP. *Psychiatry Res* 1997; 73(3):159–71.

Zaider TI, Heimberg RG, Fresco DM, Schneier FR, Liebowitz MR. Evaluation of the clinical global impression scale among individuals with social anxiety disorder. *Psychol Med* 2003; 33(4):611–22.

Address for correspondence

Not applicable – the CGI is in the public domain.

Clinical Global Impression (CGI)

1. Severity of illness

Considering your total clinical experience with this particular population, how mentally ill is the patient at this time?

- 0 = Not assessed 4 = Moderately ill
 1 = Normal, not at all ill 5 = Markedly ill
 2 = Borderline mentally ill 6 = Severely ill
 3 = Mildly ill 7 = Among the most extremely ill patients

2. Global improvement: Rate total improvement whether or not, in your judgement, it is due entirely to drug treatment.

Compared to his condition at admission to the project, how much has he changed?

- 0 = Not assessed 4 = No change
 1 = Very much improved 5 = Minimally worse
 2 = Much improved 6 = Much worse
 3 = Minimally improved 7 = Very much worse

3. Efficacy index: Rate this item on the basis of drug effect only.

Select the terms which best describe the degrees of therapeutic effect and side effects and record the number in the box where the two items intersect.

EXAMPLE: Therapeutic effect is rated as 'Moderate' and side effects are judged 'Do not significantly interfere with patient's functioning'.

Therapeutic effect		Side effects			
		None	Do not significantly interfere with patient's functioning	Significantly interferes with patient's functioning	Outweighs therapeutic effect
Marked	Vast improvement. Complete or nearly complete remission of all symptoms	01	02	03	04
Moderate	Decided improvement. Partial remission of symptoms	05	06	07	08
Minimal	Slight improvement which doesn't alter status of care of patient	09	10	11	12
Unchanged or worse		13	14	15	16
Not assessed = 00					

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