Clinical Global Impression (CGI)


**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), 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.

**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**


**Address for correspondence**

Not applicable – the CGI is in the public domain.
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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’.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Therapeutic effect</th>
<th>Side effects</th>
<th>None</th>
<th>Do not significantly interfere with patient’s functioning</th>
<th>Significantly interferes with patient’s functioning</th>
<th>Outweighs therapeutic effect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marked</td>
<td>Vast improvement. Complete or nearly complete remission of all symptoms</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Decided improvement. Partial remission of symptoms</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>06</td>
<td>07</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Slight improvement which doesn’t alter status of care of patient</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unchanged or worse</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
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</tbody>
</table>