

The God Locus of Health Control (GLHC) Scale

DIRECTIONS (for investigators)

The GLHC is designed to assess the belief that God is either the locus of control of one's health status, in general, or the locus of control of one's specific disease status. It can stand alone or be imbedded in Forms A/B or C of the MHLC scales. If, as with Forms A/B, you wish to use it to assess general health beliefs, choose the word "health" in the items below. If, as with Form C, you wish to assess condition-specific beliefs, substitute for the material in parentheses the name of the actual condition you are studying. For instance, in our work with persons with arthritis, the last item (see below) reads: "God is in control of my arthritis." If you choose to embed it within the MHLC, one easy way to do so is to have three MHLC items followed by one of the GLHC items.

The response scale for the GLHC should be the same as for the MHLC scales, which, in our work, is a 6-point Likert scale: "strongly disagree;" "moderately disagree;" "disagree;" "agree;" "moderately agree;" and "strongly agree." [If you use a different response scale, that may be OK; just be consistent.] As with the MHLC subscales, all the items are keyed in the same direction; a high score represents belief in God as a locus of control.

GLHC ITEMS

1. If my (health; condition) worsens, it is up to God to determine whether I will feel better again.
2. Most things that affect my (health; condition) happen because of God.
3. God is directly responsible for my (health; condition) getting better or worse.
4. Whatever happens to my (health; condition) is God's will.
5. Whether or not my (health; condition) improves is up to God.
6. God is in control of my (health; condition).