

Parkinson's Disease Composite Scale usage guidelines

May 2020

Introduction

Developed by the [My PD Journey](#) coalition – a multi-stakeholder European coalition led by the EPDA – the Parkinson's Disease Composite Scale (PDCS) is a simple new rating scale to be used primarily by neurologists and other healthcare professionals familiar with Parkinson's that measures the severity of [symptoms](#) experienced by people with Parkinson's in a timely way.

We are calling on healthcare professionals to use the scale and provide feedback, as we seek to increase uptake of the PDCS across Europe.

Background

Most existing [rating scales](#) used by neurologists currently explore different aspects of the condition, but do not offer a comprehensive view of a person's condition quickly. The development of the new PDCS, led by Professors Fabrizio Stocchi (Italy), Fabiana Radicati (Italy) and Pablo Martinez Martin (Spain), was therefore urgently needed as it combines [motor symptoms](#), [non-motor symptoms](#) and treatment-related [complications](#). The PDCS is designed to complement existing scales – not to replace them – and is simple and relatively fast to use.

Validation

- The [results of the first validation study](#) were published in January 2018 in the *European Journal of Neurology*. Results of the study concluded that the PDCS appears to be a feasible, acceptable, reproducible and valid scale.
- A second and more [extensive validation study](#), aimed at reaffirming the first study's findings, was completed in July 2018 and published in April 2019. This study involved 22 centres and 700 patients across 14 countries.

Guidelines for usage

Thank you for your interest in using the PDCS in your clinical/research practice.

The PDCS is free to use and disseminate for all healthcare professionals working with people with Parkinson's.

When using the PDCS, we kindly ask you to comply to the following guidelines:

- you will call it 'the Parkinson's Disease Composite Scale' at all times;
- you will (where relevant) explain that it is the EPDA's rating scale;
- you will (where relevant) include the relevant EPDA website links (www.parkinsonscompositescale.com and/or <https://www.epda.eu.com/pdcs/>) as a source for others to refer to;
- you will always officially share your feedback with us (via email contacting francesco@epda.eu.com) about your experience of using the PDCS – and also about the experience of the person(s) with Parkinson's;
- if you have a good experience of using the PDCS, you will promote the scale via social media and other communication channels (such as, for example, your own blog or website) as much as possible, using the appropriate social media hashtags: #PDCS #ParkinsonsDiseaseCompositeScale #MyPDJourney
- you will generally follow the EPDA [copyright guidelines](#) established for EPDA content.

If you have any questions, please contact us at francesco@epda.eu.com.