

WHODAS 2.0 Documentation Cheat Sheet

Reviewed by the BastionGPT Clinical Advisory Board · September 2026 · Reproduces no instrument items or norms

The WHODAS 2.0 is the World Health Organization's ICF-based measure of functioning and disability over the past 30 days: 36 or 12 items across six domains, completed by the person, a proxy, or an interviewer, and scored by simple sum or WHO's complex template. WHO publishes population percentiles, not cutoffs; DSM-5 placed it in Section III after dropping the GAF; and disability systems treat it as evidence, never as the decision. Defensible charting names the version, respondent, recall window, scoring method and coding, domain profile, and the link to diagnosis and plan.

Version and item count 36, 12, or 12+24; 32-item when not working

Do: name the version, the language, and whether the work or school items applied; state 32-item scoring when the respondent was not working.

Pitfall: "WHODAS 45" with no version; a 12-item total trended against a 36-item baseline; work items scored as no difficulty.

Respondent and mode self, interviewer, or proxy

Do: record who completed it and how; for a proxy, the relationship and the reason; note reading, language, or capacity limits.

Pitfall: a proxy score charted as the patient's own report; "WHODAS completed" with no respondent named.

Recall window and completeness the past 30 days; missing items

Do: give the dates the 30-day window covers and whether the month was typical; all items answered, or which were missing and any imputation.

Pitfall: a result that silently covers a hospital stay or a holiday month; missing items dropped without saying so.

Scoring method and coding simple sum or WHO complex template; 0 to 4 or 1 to 5

Do: name the method, the response coding, the raw total with its maximum, and any 0 to 100 summary from WHO's template.

Pitfall: a raw sum reported as a percentage; 1 to 5 and 0 to 4 totals compared as change; "complex" claimed for a hand-added sum.

Domain profile 36-item only; what drives the total

Do: report the six domain results, name the domains driving the total and those near floor; the 12-item gives one overall score only.

Pitfall: a total with no profile, so a mobility-driven and a cognition-driven 62 look identical; domain scores read from a 12-item.

Interpretation without a WHO cutoff percentiles, diagnosis-neutral

Do: write higher as more reported difficulty, give any percentile with its norm source, and tie the pattern to diagnosis and plan as consistent with.

Pitfall: "WHODAS 45, moderate disability" attributed to WHO; the score offered as proof of a diagnosis or of disability.

Decision context and repeat plan SSA, VA, NDIS, 1915(i), MIPS 502

Do: translate findings into the system's own functional areas in prose, say that self-report corroborates, and repeat on the same version and method.

Pitfall: "WHODAS 58, therefore disabled"; a follow-up on a different version, mode, or coding read as change.

Before the note is signed

- ☐ Version and item count named, work items handled
- ☐ Respondent and administration mode recorded
- ☐ Recall window and completeness stated
- ☐ Scoring method and coding named
- ☐ Domain profile reported, not the total alone
- ☐ No WHO severity band asserted; percentile sourced
- ☐ Findings translated into the decision system's own terms

Drafting with AI

Give it the facts: version and item count, who completed it and how, the recall window and dates, scoring method and coding, total and domain results, percentile if used, the diagnosis, the decision context, and the plan.

"Draft WHODAS 2.0 documentation: 36-item self-report at intake 09/15, 30-day recall, simple sum on 0 to 4 coding, total 62 of 144, highest difficulty in cognition, getting along, and work; mobility and self-care near floor; recurrent major depression; repeat at the 90-day treatment plan review."

Never paste patient-identifying information into consumer AI tools. BastionGPT is HIPAA-compliant with a signed BAA on every plan.

36 or 12 items

plus a 12+24 interviewer hybrid

6 ICF domains

difficulty over the past 30 days

No WHO cutoff

percentiles, not severity bands

WHO copyright

EHR or app use needs a license

WHODAS 2.0 Documentation Template

Copy or print for your practice · Adapt fields to your organization's, payer's and jurisdiction's documentation requirements. Contains no instrument items.

Setting:	Patient (initials):	Date:	Clinician:
Version (36 / 12 / 12+24) + mode:		Scoring method + response coding:	

Version and work items

36-item, 12-item, or 12+24 · language and translation · work or school items administered, or 32-item scoring stated because the respondent was not working or studying

Administration mode and respondent

Self, interviewer (in person or by telephone), or proxy · who completed it and, for a proxy, the relationship and the reason · reading, language, or capacity issues noted

Scores, scoring method, and coding

Simple sum or WHO complex (IRT) template · response coding 0 to 4 or 1 to 5 · raw total with its maximum · 0 to 100 summary if produced · missing items and any imputation applied

Domain profile

36-item only: the six domain results and the domains driving the total · domains near floor · a 12-item result yields one overall score only

Interpretation

Higher = more reported difficulty · no WHO cutoff or severity band · percentile position, if used, with its norm source · pattern consistent with, not diagnostic of, the condition · congruence with interview and collateral

Decision context and limits

System named (SSA, VA, workers' compensation, NDIS, 1915(i), payer, fitness for duty) · findings translated into that system's own functional areas in prose · self-report corroborates; it does not establish eligibility, capacity, or causation

Plan and repeat administration

Treatment or support goals the profile supports · next administration on the same version, mode, method, and coding · interval (MIPS 502: 30 to 180 days when reported) · where the result is stored

Clinician (name and credentials):	Signature:	Date:
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