

THE TOP TEN

GAIN-Q4 INCONSISTENCIES

Item SP1e in the SP. School Problems section (When was the last time you went to any kind of school or training?) is inconsistent with item SP1e2 (During the past 90 days, on how many days did you go to any kind of school or training?).

Example: For item SP1e the participant reports that the last time they went to school or training was either within the past month or 2-3 months ago, then for item SP1e2, the participant reports 0 days. The participant should report going to school or training on at least 1 day during the past 90 days for item SP1e2 for these items to be consistent. Or, the participant should report 4-12 months ago or 1+ years ago for SP1e.

Note: A similar inconsistency occurs in the Work Problems section of the assessment between items WP1e on p. 12 (When was the last time you went to work?) and WP1e2 on p. 12 (During the past 90

Item PH1e in the PH. Physical Health section (When was the last time you had health problems that kept you from meeting your responsibilities at work, school, or home?) is inconsistent with item PH2b (During the past 90 days, on how many days have health problems kept you from meeting your responsibilities at work, school or home?).

Example: For item PH1e the participant reports that the last time they had this problem was either within the past month or 2-3 months ago, then for item PH2b the participant reports 0 days. The participant should report at least 1 day during the past 90 days for item PH2b for these items to be consistent. (Or vice-versa—the participant reports either 4-12 months ago, 1+ years ago or Never for item PH1e, but then reports anything other than 0 for item PH2b).

Item PH1f in the PH. Physical Health section (When was the last time you saw a doctor or nurse about a health problem or took prescribed medication for one?) is inconsistent with items PH1f1-PH1f5 (Physical health treatment during the past 90 day items).

Example: For item PH1f if the participant reports past month or 2-3 months ago, then the participant must report at least 1 time, night or day for at least one item dealing with physical health treatment during the past 90 days (items PH1f1-PH1f5) in order for these items to be consistent.

Items RB1g-RB1k in the RB. Risk Behaviors for Infectious Diseases section (Items dealing with physical, sexual, or emotional abuse) are inconsistent with item RB2c (During the past 90 days, how many days have you been attacked with a weapon, beaten, sexually abused or emotionally abused?).

Example: For items RB1g-RB1k the participant responds past month or 2-3 months ago for any of these items, then for item RB2c the participant reports 0 days. The participant must report at least 1 day during the past 90 days that they were physically, emotionally or sexually abused for these items be consistent. (Or vice versa—the participant reports either 4-12 months ago, 1 + years ago or Never for items RB1g-RB1k, but then reports anything other than 0 for item RB2c).

Item MH2h in the MH. Mental Health section (When was the last time, if ever, you were treated for a mental, emotional, behavioral, or psychological problem by a mental health specialist or in an emergency room, hospital, or outpatient mental health facility, or with Prescribed medication?) is inconsistent with items MH2h1-MH2h4 (Mental, emotional, behavioral, or psychological treatment during the past 90 day items).

FIVE

Example: For item MH2h regarding the last time the participant received treatment for mental, emotional, behavioral, or psychological problems, the participant reports either past month or 2-3 months ago, then for items MH2h1-MH2h4 regarding treatment the participant received during the past 90 days, the participant reports 0 for each. The participant must report at least 1 time, night or day for at least one item dealing with mental, emotional, behavioral, or psychological treatment for items MH2h1-MH2h4 in order for these items to be consistent.

Item SU1f in the SU. Substance Use section (When was the last time you received treatment, counseling, medication, case management or aftercare for your use of alcohol or any other drug?) is inconsistent with items SU1f2-SU1f99 (Substance use treatment during the past 90 days items).

SIX

Example: For item SU1f regarding the last time the participant received treatment for their alcohol or other drug use the participant reports either past month or 2-3 months ago, then for items SU1f2-SU1f99 regarding treatment the participant received during the past 90 days, the participant reports 0 for each. The participant must report at least 1 time, night or day for at least one item dealing with substance treatment for items SU1f2-SU1f99 in order for these items to be consistent.

Item SU3a in the SU. Substance Use section (During the past 90 days, on how many days did you go without using any alcohol, cannabis or other drugs?) is inconsistent with the days of use reported for items SU4a and SU4c-SU4s.

SEVEN

Example: For item SU3a the participant reports going 30 days without using any substances, then for item SU4c the participant reports using cannabis, hashish, blunts or other forms of THC on 75 days. If the participant has used cannabis on 75 of the past 90 days, then it is impossible for them to have also gone 30 days without using substances in the same 90 day time period (75 days of use + 30 days of nonuse = 105). The total days of use and nonuse within a 90-day period cannot be greater than 90 days.

Remember that multiple substances can be used on the same days, which may need to be clarified with the participant. For example, the participant reports using cannabis for item SU4c for 60 days and alcohol for item SU4a for 40 days, and then reports going without using substances for 30 days for item SU3a. If the interviewer clarifies and the participant says that they used both substances together every time they used, then the items are consistent. (60 maximum days of use + 30 days of nonuse = 90). However, if the participant says that they used only alcohol on some days and only cannabis on others, the number of days of use is more than 60, which means that the responses are inconsistent and need to be clarified.

Items MH1a-MH1f in the MH. Mental Health section (items dealing with significant psychological, behavioral, and emotional problems) are inconsistent with item MH3a (During the past 90 days, on how many days were you bothered by any nerve, mental, or psychological problems?).

eight

Example: For MH1a-MH1f the participant responds past month or 2-3 months ago for any of these items, then for item MH3a the participant reports 0 days. The participant must report at least 1 day during the past 90 days that they were bothered by any nerve, mental, or psychological problems for these items to be consistent.

Note that it is also possibly inconsistent for the participant to report anything other than 0 for item MH3a but respond either 4-12 months ago, 1+ years ago or Never for items MH1a-MH1f. It is a good idea to clarify that the participant is referring to a different psychological, behavioral, or emotional problem(s) that was not included for items MH1a-MH1f.

Item SS1g in the SS. Sources of Stress section (You didn't have enough money to pay all your bills on time) is inconsistent with item SS2b (During the past 90 days, on how many days have you had any money problems, including arguing about money or not having enough for food or housing?).

nine

Example: For item SS1g the participant reports either past month or 2-3 months ago, then for item SS2b the participant reports 0 days. The participant should report at least 1 day during the past 90 days that they had money problems for these items to be consistent.

Note that it is also possibly inconsistent for the participant to report either 4-12 months ago, 1+ years ago or Never for item SS1g, but then reports anything other than 0 for item SS2b. These two items are only possibly inconsistent since a participant could report that they had arguments about money or other money problems during the past 90 days (SS2b) but still had enough money to pay all their bills on time (SS1g).

Item MH1d in the MH. Mental Health section (When was the last time you had significant problems with becoming very distressed and upset when something reminded you of the past?) is inconsistent with item MH3c (During the past 90 days, on how many days have you been disturbed by memories of things from the past that you did, saw or had happen to you?).

ten

Example: For item MH1d the participant reports either past month or 2-3 months, then for item MH3c the participant reports 0 days. The participant should report at least 1 day during the past 90 days that they were disturbed by memories for these items to be consistent.

(Or vice versa—the participant reports either 4-12 months ago, 1+ years ago or Never for item MH1d, but then reports anything other than 0 for item MH3c. Technically, this may not be inconsistent in all cases: For instance, the participant may say for item MH1d that they were disturbed by something from the past that they did not witness, such as the death of a loved one, but then legitimately answer zero for item MH3c. If this occurs, make a staff note explaining the situation.)