

The TOP FIVE CTDCF GAIN-Q4 Edits

Some of the common GAIN-Q4 inconsistencies or errors the GAIN Data Team finds in the submitted GAIN assessments are listed below. This list is not complete, however it can be used as a guide to help the Data Manager find and update the responses in ABS based on the GAIN Edits that were created.

1. Missing Items:

In a recent review of all GAIN-Q4 edits created, over 30% of all edits created were for missing items. The largest number of missing items came from the Crime and Violence section and the Life Satisfaction section. To receive a proper diagnosis of a client, you need to make sure to ask all required items. Many of these items are in calculations for diagnosis and treatment planning.

2. PH2a (During the past 90 days, on how many days have you been bothered by any health or medical problems?)

If the participant answers “never” to this item, clarify by asking whether they have ever been sick or stayed home from school or work because of a cold. Many participants initially answer “never” to item PH2a, perhaps under the assumption that the item refers to serious medical problems. Others seem to think of the word in primarily psychological terms, so their response to the question of being “bothered” by physical health concerns is, truthfully, never. Other participants seem to equate “bothered” with weakness. However, the item’s intent is to measure the number of days the participant feels the effects of any illness, such as colds or other minor medical issues, in addition to more serious concerns.

It is unlikely that a participant will have gone their whole lives without ever being affected by a health or medical problem. If the participant’s other responses in the Physical Health section appear to conflict with their response to item PH2a, attempt to clarify the inconsistencies.

- **Edit Example:**

- PH1d (When was the last time you had a lot of physical pain and discomfort?) is coded as 4 (Past month). However, PH2a (During the past 90 days, on how many days have you been bothered by any health or medical problems?) is coded as 0 days. If the client endorses 3 (2 to 3 months ago) or 4 (past month) for any item in PH1c-PH1e, PH2a should be at least 1 day. Please check and update in GAIN ABS. Once PH2a is updated, click 'next' in interactive mode to administer skipped item PH2b.

3. MH3d (During past 90 days, on how many days have you had any problems paying attention have you had any problems paying attention, controlling your behavior, or broken rules you were supposed to follow?)

If the participant reported 2-3 months ago or more recent for MH2a-g, then MH3d should be at least 1 day. Items MH2a-g discusses things like; lying or conning to get things you wanted, hard time paying attention, hard time listening to instructions or waiting for your turn, and being a bully or threatening other people.

If the participant's other responses in the Mental Health section appear to conflict with their response to item MH3d attempt to clarify the inconsistencies, but if the participant does not see the items as inconsistent, make a staff note explaining the situation.

- **Edit Example:**

- MH3d (During past 90 days, on how many days have you had any problems paying attention...) is currently recorded as 0 days. However, the client endorsed last having a hard time paying attention at school, work or home within the past month (MH2b=4/Past Month). Based on this response, MH3d should be at least 1 day. Please check and update.

4. CV4 (During the past 90 days, on how many days were you involved in any activities that you thought might get you into trouble or be against the law, besides drug use?)

The wording of item CV4 specifically mentions the last time the participant did something that they thought might get them in trouble or be against the law. One purpose of item CV4 is to record the participant's perception of their own problems (which can sometimes point to denial or other problems). The participant may not believe that a particular action is illegal, or they may recognize that an action is illegal but don't recognize the extent of their engagement with that activity.

If the participant's other responses in the Crime and Violence section appear to conflict with their response to item CV4, attempt to clarify the inconsistencies, but if the participant does not see the items as inconsistent, make a staff note explaining the situation.

- **Edit Example:**

- CV4 (During the past 90 days, on how many days were you involved in any activities you thought might get you into trouble or be against the law, besides drug use?) is coded as 0 days. However, at least on item in CV1a-CV1e is coded as 3 (2 to 3 months ago) or more recent. If client endorses 3 (2 to 3 months ago) or 4 (past month) for any item in CV1a through CV1e, then CV4 should be at least 1 day. Please check and update in GAIN ABS. If CV4 is updated, click 'next' in interactive mode and administer skipped items CV4a1-CV4a.

5. Time

The time it takes to complete an assessment, and the accuracy of that assessment are important measures of the quality of interviewers' training. The total duration of each assessment is used to measure the effectiveness of training: if an interviewer routinely takes much longer or shorter to complete an interview than others, it is often an indicator for additional training. Therefore, the duration of the assessment should be accurately represented by the start and end times.

A1a/A1b (Start Time) – The start time should not be missing and should be recorded in standard time.

Z1/Z1b (End Time) – The end time should not be missing and should be recorded in standard time.

Z1c (How many breaks did you take today?) – A GAIN Edit will be created if the number of breaks is missing or unusually high; typically there are not more than two or three breaks taken for every assessment, although seven to nine breaks may be valid.

Z1d (Not counting breaks, how long did it take you to finish this today?) – A GAIN Edit will be created if the total duration of the first session is recorded as 0 minutes or is missing. If there are no breaks recorded, the duration will be calculated from end time minus start time by the GAIN Data Management Team and a suggestion will be made in the GAIN Edits file.

- **Edit Examples:**

- Missing all end time items (Z1, Z1b, Z1c, Z1d). Start time (A1a/A1b) was recorded as 4:00 PM. Please verify and update in GAIN ABS.
- Duration of the first day of administration (Z1d) is recorded as 0 minutes. However, based on the start time (A1a/A1b) of 12:00 PM and end time (Z1/Z1b) of 1:15 PM with 0 breaks (Z1c), should Z1d be 75 minutes? Please verify and update in GAIN ABS.

The XADMh1 section is used to record interviews administered over multiple sessions (not just simple breaks but over days). Items XADMh1a should record the date on which the interview was completed. XADMh1b should record the number of breaks across all sessions of the interview. There should be at least one break recorded to count the break between the first and second sessions. Item XADMh1c records the total duration of the interview across all sessions. The original duration recorded in item Z1d should include only the time to complete the first session.

Other Issues

6. B3av1-B3a99 (Which races, ethnicities, nationalities, or tribes best describe you?)

Item B3a is a mentioned item. To properly code item B3a, ask the question and enter the participant's response in the verbatim field, then ask, "Any others?" until the participant reports nothing else. Then code yes for the appropriate mentioned items in B3a1–B3a99 and no for all others.

Although nationalities, ethnicities, and tribes are mentioned in the wording of item B3a, the main intent is to record the participant's race. If the participant reports a nationality or an ethnicity, record it in the verbatim field but *always* clarify for a race.

- **Edit Example:**

- B3av1 (Which races, ethnicities, nationalities or tribes best describes you?) is recorded as "Caucasian." However, B3a4 (Caucasian/White) is coded 0-No. Based on the verbatim, should B3a4 (Caucasian/White) be coded 1-Yes?

7. Administration Ratings-

XADMa1a-XADMa1z (How were the questions administered?) - Code yes or no for each response choice, similar to a mentioned item, to record how the assessment was administered: by the participant on their own, orally administered by staff, orally administered by others, or some other way.

- **Edit Examples:**
 - All items for administration section XADMa1a-XADMa1z (How were the questions administered?) are coded as 0-No. Please enter either 1-Yes or 0-No. For this section, at least one response should be 1-Yes. Please verify and update in GAIN ABS.

XADMa2a-XADMa2z (What was the mode of administration?) - Code yes or no for each response choice, similar to a mentioned item, to record how the interview was conducted: with pen and paper, on a computer with GAIN ABS, by telephone, or some other way.

- **Edit Examples:**
 - All items for administration section XADMa2a-XADMa2z (What was the mode of administration?) are coded as 0-No. Please enter either 1-Yes or 0-No. For this section, at least one response should be 1-Yes. Please verify and update in GAIN ABS.