

OCTH 6260-Spring- Assessment Rating Form

I. General Information

Title of the test: Kohlman Evaluation of Living Skills (KELS)

Author: Linda Kohlman Thomson

Publisher: American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc.

Time required to administer: 30-45 minutes

Cost of the Test: \$35.00 (for AOTA members); \$45.00 (for non-members)

II. Description of Test

Type/Purpose of Test: This assessment is used to determine a person's ability to function in basic living skills. Based on the results of this assessment, recommendations for living situations that allow the client to function as independently as possible can be made. Seventeen living skills in the following five areas are tested: Self-Care, Safety and Health, Money Management, Transportation and Telephone, and Work and Leisure. This assessment identifies areas in which the person is able to perform and in which he or she requires assistance.

Population: Adolescent and beyond (no specific age range given). Appropriate for individuals who have cognitively disabling conditions (Alzheimer disease, TBI), adolescents in training programs, people in acute care units in hospitals, and the elderly.

Focus of measurement:

Organic systems Abilities Participation/life habits Environmental Factors

III. Practical Administration

Ease of Administration: The assessment is simple, straightforward, and quick to administer. The manual provides instructions that include the method, equipment, administration procedures, and scoring criteria for each living skill item. A specific script is also provided for each item.

Clarity of Directions: Directions for administration and scoring are clear and direct.

Scoring Procedures:

After administering the assessment as directed by the manual through each of the five areas, use the scoring sheet to rate the client according to the scoring criteria. The two scoring categories for the KELS are "Independent" and "Needs Assistance." Note how the client manages to perform within those areas if independent, how assistance is given, and from whom assistance is required to complete the activities. Writing "Not Applicable" rather than categorizing into the two scoring categories is used for items that do not relate to the client's living situation. "See Note" is used for items that cannot be clearly scored into the two categories and requires further explanation. Each item marked as "Needs Assistance" gets one point (excluding the two items under Work and Leisure, which are counted as a half point). "Independent," "See Note," and "Not Applicable" receive zero points. A total score of 6 or more indicates that the client needs assistance to live in the community, while a score of 5 ½ or less means the client is capable of living independently. However, even with a score that indicates independence, further functional evaluations may be

necessary to determine recommendations for living independently in the community. A summary note is given at the bottom of the score sheet.

Examiner Qualification & Training: This assessment is specifically identified as an occupational therapy evaluation, and the manual addresses the evaluator as an occupational therapist; however, it is also made clear within the manual to educate other professionals on the interpretation and use of the results. The test administrator should be familiar with the questioning procedures and with limiting side conversation while giving this assessment.

IV. Technical Considerations

Standardization: ___ Norms ___x___ Criterion Referenced ___ Other ___

Reliability:

- Inter-rater reliability = 0.74-0.94; significant at $p \leq 0.001$

Validity:

- Concurrent validity
 - Global Assessment Scale: 0.78-0.89; significant at $p \leq 0.001$
 - Bay Area Functional Performance Evaluation: -0.84; significant at $p \leq 0.0001$
 - People living in a halfway house vs. living independently: significant at $p \leq 0.001$
- Predictive validity
 - 100% accurate in predicting which geriatric subjects would be successful in community placements

Manual: ___x___ Excellent ___ Adequate ___ Poor

What is (are) the setting/s that you would anticipate using this assessment?

Originally created for short-term inpatient psychiatric units; excellent for use with elderly (helps a person live as independently as possible while being safe); acute care hospitals where therapists are asked to quickly assist in discharge planning; in court for the determination of commitment and gravely disabled cases

Summary of strengths and weaknesses:

Weakness:

- Not appropriate for settings with long length of stays—more than one month--(person's finances, transportation, work, and leisure have changed drastically)
- Some items not applicable in rural areas or outside of the United States/Canada
- Does not comprehensively evaluate living skills—just a short, basic living skills evaluation
- Many items are interview-based rather than performance-based—may test knowledge instead of the actual performance of the skill

Strength:

- Short administration and scoring time
- Easy to learn
- Easy to assemble equipment
- Inexpensive
- Can be transported with little effort
- Specific instructions and script are available for the administrator of the test