

# Short Portable Mental Status Questionnaire (SPMSQ)

**Patient's full name:**

**Date assessed:**

**Assessor's full name:**

**Instructions:** Ask the patient/interviewee the questions below. Give them enough time to answer each one. Move on to the next question if it's obvious that the person doesn't know the answer or if they refuse to answer. If they don't know the answer or refuse to answer, that counts as 1 error. Make sure to write down their responses in the Response column and tally the total number of errors.

Questions	Response	Incorrect Response
1. What are the date, month, and year?		
2. What is the day of the week?		
3. What is the name of this place?		
4. What is your phone number?		
5. How old are you?		
6. When were you born?		
7. Who is the current president?		
8. Who was the president before him?		

9. What was your mother's maiden name?		
10. Can you count backward from 20 by 3's?		

**Scoring:**

To interpret the scores, just refer to the following ranges and designations:

- 0-2 errors: normal mental functioning
- 3-4 errors: mild cognitive impairment
- 5-7 errors: moderate cognitive impairment
- 8 or more errors: severe cognitive impairment

Please note that the SPMSQ is merely used to gauge the potential level of cognitive impairment/decline a person has. It is not a diagnostic tool. It's best to have the interviewee undergo a comprehensive exam to confirm the cognitive impairment/decline and if any underlying conditions are causing it.

**Source:**

Pfeiffer, E. (1975). A short portable mental status questionnaire for the assessment of organic brain deficit in elderly patients. *Journal of American Geriatrics Society*. 23, 433-41.