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What is quality of life?

- **Quality of life (QoL)** is a ubiquitous concept that has different philosophical, political and health-related definitions.
- **Health-related QoL (HRQoL)** includes the physical, functional, social and emotional well-being of an individual.
- HRQoL is a **patient-reported outcome** usually measured with carefully designed and validated instruments such as **questionnaires** or **semi-structured interview schedules**.
- These assessments are increasingly important when **evaluating the benefits and harms of new treatments** being tested in clinical trials.
- They can also be used via **touch screen technology** to help monitor the impact of disease and its treatment on individual patients in the clinic.

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