

**Longitudinal Interval Follow-Up Evaluation (L.I.F.E.)**

Availability:	<p><b>Please email the author for information about obtaining the instrument:</b>  <a href="mailto:martin_keller@brown.edu">martin_keller@brown.edu</a></p>
Classification:	<p>Supplemental for Epilepsy</p>
Short Description of Instrument:	<p>Purpose: The Longitudinal Interval Follow-up Evaluation (LIFE) is an integrated system for assessing the longitudinal course of psychiatric disorders.</p> <p>Description: The LIFE consists of a semistructured interview, an Instruction booklet, a coding sheet, and a set of training materials. An interviewer uses the LIFE to collect detailed psychosocial, psychopathologic, and treatment information for a six-month follow-up interval. The weekly psychopathology measures ("psychiatric status ratings") are ordinal symptom-based scales with categories defined to match the levels of symptoms used in the Research Diagnostic Criteria. The ratings provide a separate, concurrent record of the course of each disorder initially diagnosed in patients or developing during the follow-up. Any DSM-III or Research Diagnostic Criteria disorder can be rated with the LIFE, and any length or number of follow-up intervals can be accommodated. The psychosocial and treatment information is recorded so that these data can be linked temporally to the psychiatric status ratings.</p> <p>Comment: The LIFE should be administered by trained raters with experience in structured clinical interviews and criterion-based diagnostic systems.</p> <p>Primary Dependent Measures: 3 or 6 point scale for criteria</p> <p>Time Estimates: 45 minutes to 4 hours</p> <p>Vendor: permission from Brown University</p>
References:	<p>References: Keller MB, Lavori PW, Friedman B, Nielsen E, Endicott J, McDonald-Scott P, Andreason NC. The Longitudinal Interval Follow-up Evaluation: A comprehensive method for assessing outcome in prospective longitudinal studies. Arch Gen Psychiatry. 1987; 44: 540-548.</p> <p>Warshaw MG, Dyck I, Allsworth J, Stout RL, Keller MB. Maintaining reliability in a long-term psychiatric study: an ongoing inter-rater reliability monitoring program using the longitudinal interval follow-up evaluation. J Psychiatr Res. 2001; 35(5): 297-305.</p>