

The Humanism Scale

Instructions:

After reading each statement, please mark the line with an “X” to tell us how strongly you agree or disagree with the statement.

For example:

I feel comfortable asking my doctor questions.

|-----X-----|

Strongly disagree Strongly agree

- 1)* My doctor seems to take a personal interest in me.
- 2) My doctor asks for my opinion when making decisions about my treatment.
- 3) I would bring up personal problems to my doctor.
- 4) My doctor asks about my family.
- 5)* Even when my problem is small, my doctor is concerned.
- 6) My doctor explains things so I understand.
- 7) I trust my doctor.
- 8) I am treated like a “number” by my doctor.
- 9) I don’t bring up certain things because my doctor will think I am stupid.
- 10) My doctor is concerned when something is bothering me.
- 11) My doctor asks about conditions at work (including conditions at home, if you are a homemaker).
- 12) My doctor seems to understand my feelings.
- 13) My doctor usually seems hurried.
- 14)* I have confidence in my doctor’s decisions.
- 15) My doctor is able to “put himself in my shoes.”
- 16) Every time I see my doctor, it seems that he/she does not remember me.
- 17) My doctor cares about me.
- 18)* My doctor respects my beliefs.
- 19)* I would talk to my doctor if something were troubling me.
- 20)* My doctor takes an interest in my home life.
- 21)* My doctor is easy to talk to.
- 22) My doctor is skilled and well-informed.
- 23) My doctor shows warmth and compassion.
- 24)* My doctor seems to know what I am going through when I tell him/her about a problem.

*Abbreviated eight-item scale.

Note 1: From “Hauck FR, Zyzanski SJ, Alemagno SA, et al. Patient perceptions of humanism in physicians: Effects on positive health behaviors. *Fam Med.* 1990;22:447-452.” Reprinted with permission from the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, www.stfm.org.

Note 2: A seven-point scale may be used where 1=strongly disagree and 7=strongly agree, see “Coutts LC, Rogers JC. Humanism: Is its evaluation captured in commonly used measures? *Teaching Learning Med.* 2000;12:28-32.”