Time Trade-off

Background

Health preferences are elicited by asking participants to imagine living a defined number of years in an imperfect health state and to indicate the number of remaining life years in full health at which the respondent is indifferent between the longer period of impaired health and the shorter period of full health.

Valuing full health as 1.0; this provides with a value of the impaired health state as a ratio of the two periods.

Items:

1. Double-sided timetable with: one scale: 0 to 20 years, the other side, a scale: 0 to 20 years representing the number of years in a certain state.
2. Health state scenario cards

Procedural Summary:

1. Respondent is taken through each health state, with the interviewer moving the scale as appropriate.
2. The interviewer records the scores provided by the participant for each health state.
3. Finer discrimination between states is determined by using a midpoint between 2 years, and 0.5 may be used.
4. If a respondent chooses 20 years in life B (the health state being valued) in preference to 19 years, the respondent is asked whether they would sacrifice any time to avoid life B. (This is intended to evaluate very mild state of health.)
5. “States better than death” versus “States worse than death.”
6. Continue until all health states are covered.

Detailed Protocol:
1. Have TTO Board side “1” facing upward. Set board marker for Life A to 20 years.

“No i’m going to show you the same states that you have seen before, and ask you to make a choice between this health state at the top which is Life A (“perfect health”) and one of the other states which will be Life B. The pink scale and the green scale show the number of years you would be in each state for. Remember, I want you to imagine that YOU are in these states.”

2. Interviewer Check: Scenario Card __ __

Pass First Card to the respondent.

“Please read this carefully”

3. Now introduce the health state, scenario Life B.

“At the moment, each scale says 20 years. This means that you would either live in life A for 20 years and then die, or you would live in Life B for 20 years and then die. Would you prefer Life A or Life B, or are they the same?”

Life A: 1: go to A
Life B: 2: go to B
The same: 3: go to next health state

A. If Life A, does this mean that you would rather live in Life A for 20 years than in Life B for 20 years?

Yes 1
No (1st) 2
No (2nd) 3

B. Life A now = 0 years. “Now you would either die immediately, or end up living 20 years in Life B “health state.” Would you prefer to die immediately or to have Life B, or are they the same?”

Life A 1: “States worse than death”
Life B 2: “States better than death”
The same 3: go to next health state.

States worse than death
“Life A is now “t” years of this state followed by “10-t” in this other state. Or you could choose to die immediately. Would you prefer life A or to die immediately, or are they the same?

Mark X on the scale below:

C. Now you would either live in Life A for Y years and then die, or you would live in Life B for 10 years and then die. Would you prefer life A or Life B, or are they the same?

If A: Check under Y, Move marker 1 year to the left. Repeat D with Y 1 less than last time.

If B: X under Y Move marker 1 year to the right. Repeat D with Y 1 more than last time.

If same, leave = under Y. Go to next health state.

States better than death
Mark X on the scale below: