

It is recommended that the question is implemented in the following way:

PH040_Q1: Was there any time during the last 12 months when you really needed a medical examination or treatment (excluding dental) for yourself?

Yes (I really needed at least at one occasion medical examination or treatment) 1

No (I did not need any medical examination or treatment) 2

FILTER: If PH040_Q1 = 1 then GO TO PH040_Q2. Else GO TO PH060_Q1.

PH040_Q2: Did you have a medical examination or treatment each time you really needed?

Yes (I had a medical examination or treatment each time I needed) 1

No (there was at least one occasion when I did not have a medical examination or treatment) 2

FILTER: If PH040_Q2 = 2 then GO TO PH050_Q1. Else GO TO PH060_Q1.

Recommendations on the model question(s):

- In order to ensure that only relevant health problems are taken into account (in situations perceived by respondent as worrying or possibly causing additional health problems or further significantly deteriorating his/her health), the question should include 'really' (... when you really needed ...).
- In order to make sure that only consultations needed on the person's own behalf rather than on behalf of children, spouse, etc., the question should include 'for yourself'.
- Both 'examination and treatment' shall be asked as both terms might be perceived differently by the respondents and the intention is to include all contacts with medical professionals (including diagnostic and preventive check-ups).
- Not to include any other questions related to unmet needs before or between the model questions.
- To follow the proposed order of all the questions and the answer categories.
- Depending on the national context, the model question can explicitly ask for exclusion of dental examination or treatment if there is a worry that respondents could consider it as part of medical care. This should especially be taken in account when questions on unmet needs for medical care are asked before questions on unmet needs for dental care.

Construction of PH040 variable from the model questions:

PH040 = 1 if PH040_Q1 = 1 and PH040_Q2 = 2

PH040 = 2 if PH040_Q1 = 1 and PH040_Q2 = 1

PH040 = missing and flag -2 if PH040_Q1 = 2.

Before 2015

In order to ensure that only serious needs are taken into account, it is suggested that the term 'when you really needed ...' is added into the question.

It is also suggested that the word 'on your own behalf' is added to ensure that the consultation/treatment was on the person's own behalf rather than on behalf of children, spouse, etc. If this is not clarified, any comparison between men and women or between parents and non-parents might be confounded. Also, 'really' could stress the need for emergency checks and exclude preventive ones.

As a model to be adapted to the current PH040: Unmet need for medical examination or treatment [Unmet need for medical examination or treatment during the last 12 months], the question on unmet need for specialist consultation in the EHIS is as follows (the terms in italics refer to specialists and should be deleted or adapted):

HC.14 Was there any time during the last 12 months when you really needed to consult a specialist but did not?

- Yes, there was at least one occasion _ 1
- No, there was no occasion _ 2 → GO TO HC.16/PH060

(and possibly):

- Don't know _ 8 → GO TO HC.16/PH060
- Refusal _ 9 → GO TO HC.16/PH060)