# Patient-Oriented Eczema Measure (POEM)

**POEM for self-completion and/or proxy completion**

**Patient Details:**

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Please circle one response for each of the seven questions below about your/your child’s eczema. If your child is old enough to understand the questions then please fill in the questionnaire together. Please leave blank any questions you feel unable to answer.

1. Over the last week, on how many days has your/your child’s skin been itchy because of the eczema?
   - No days
   - 1-2 days
   - 3-4 days
   - 5-6 days
   - Every day

2. Over the last week, on how many nights has your/your child’s sleep been disturbed because of the eczema?
   - No days
   - 1-2 days
   - 3-4 days
   - 5-6 days
   - Every day

3. Over the last week, on how many days has your/your child’s skin been bleeding because of the eczema?
   - No days
   - 1-2 days
   - 3-4 days
   - 5-6 days
   - Every day

4. Over the last week, on how many days has your/your child’s skin been weeping or oozing clear fluid because of the eczema?
   - No days
   - 1-2 days
   - 3-4 days
   - 5-6 days
   - Every day

5. Over the last week, on how many days has your/your child’s skin been cracked because of the eczema?
   - No days
   - 1-2 days
   - 3-4 days
   - 5-6 days
   - Every day

6. Over the last week, on how many days has your/your child’s skin been flaking off because of the eczema?
   - No days
   - 1-2 days
   - 3-4 days
   - 5-6 days
   - Every day

7. Over the last week, on how many days has your/your child’s skin felt dry or rough because of the eczema?
   - No days
   - 1-2 days
   - 3-4 days
   - 5-6 days
   - Every day

**Total POEM Score (Maximum 28):** ............................................

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How is the scoring done?

Each of the seven questions carries equal weight and is scored from 0 to 4 as follows:

- No days = 0
- 1-2 days = 1
- 3-4 days = 2
- 5-6 days = 3
- Every day = 4

Note:

- If one question is left unanswered this is scored 0 and the scores are summed and expressed as usual out of a maximum of 28
- If two or more questions are left unanswered the questionnaire is not scored
- If two or more response options are selected, the response option with the highest score should be recorded

What does a poem score mean?

To help patients and clinicians to understand their POEM scores, the following bandings have been established (see references below):

- 0 to 2 = Clear or almost clear
- 3 to 7 = Mild eczema
- 8 to 16 = Moderate eczema
- 17 to 24 = Severe eczema
- 25 to 28 = Very severe eczema

Do I need permission to use the scale?

Whilst the POEM scale is protected by copyright, it is freely available for use and can be downloaded from: www.nottingham.ac.uk/dermatology

We do however ask that you register your use of the POEM by e-mailing cebd@nottingham.ac.uk with details of how you would like to use the scale, and which countries the scale will be used in.

References
