NHIS Adult Disability and Functioning Crosswalk
LONG VERSION – includes chronic condition tables

Recent NHIS adult content and proposed 2028 status | Public comment companion

FROM THE PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDANCE: IN BRIEF

- The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) is proposing a redesign of NHIS for 2028.
- Some disability and functioning questions would be removed.
- The way households are asked to respond would also change.
- The redesign is not final, and NCHS is asking for public comment.
- This guide highlights what matters for disability data and helps you prepare a specific comment to make your voice count.

Accessibility note: This document is organized with Word headings so screen reader users can move by section. The first pages provide a summary; the detailed crosswalk tables follow. In the tables, status information is written in text, such as RETAINED, NOT RETAINED, or CHANGED, and is not conveyed by color alone. Survey variable names and placeholders, such as WG-SS, WG-ES, and bracketed source text, are included because they come from NHIS source materials. Readers who want the plain-language overview may start with "At a glance" before reviewing the detailed tables.

Quick crosswalk: what changes in the proposed 2028 adult survey?

Area	Current/recent NHIS adult content	Proposed 2028	Why this matters for public comment
Washington Group Short Set	Six core domains: seeing, hearing, walking/climbing steps, remembering/concentrating, self-care, and communication.	**RETAINED**	Preserves a basic, core disability identification foundation, but not the fuller disability/functioning picture.
Detailed mobility and supports	Equipment/help, cane or walker, wheelchair/scooter, personal assistance, walking distances, and steps.	**NOT RETAINED**	Makes it harder to identify mobility-support users and levels of mobility limitation.
Developmental disability identification	Age of onset before 22; difficulty learning; help with everyday tasks.	**NOT RETAINED**	These items support identification aligned with the DD Act functional framework; the learning/help items began only in 2026.
Detailed cognition and upper-body function	Memory vs. concentration detail; frequency/extent; raising objects; hand/finger use.	**NOT RETAINED**	Reduces information about types and severity of functional limitation.
Anxiety/depression functioning	Washington Group frequency and intensity items plus medication questions.	**CHANGED**	Brief clinical screening remains, but the current functioning frequency/intensity measures are not retained as a set.
Fatigue	Frequency, duration, and severity of feeling very tired or exhausted.	**NOT RETAINED**	An example of related function and participation measures recently used in federal analyses.

Area	Current/recent NHIS adult content	Proposed 2028	Why this matters for public comment
Pain	Recent NHIS pain items are intermittent; 2026 also contains arthritis-specific pain content.	**RETAINED / REDESIGNED**	The 2028 draft includes broader general pain frequency, severity, and limitation questions.
Chronic conditions	Diagnosis and condition-specific information includes COPD, arthritis/rheumatic conditions, dementia/Alzheimer's, anxiety/depression diagnoses, CFS/ME, ADHD, and other chronic conditions.	**MIXED**	Some chronic-condition content is retained or simplified; other condition-identification and condition-specific limitation items are not included.
Participation and work	Errands/independent living, social participation, work limitation, and work-loss days.	**LARGELY RETAINED**	These remain important outcomes once disability populations can be identified consistently.

About this crosswalk

Purpose. This streamlined crosswalk is designed to be used with the **NHIS 2028 proposed changes Public Comment Guidance (Focus on Disability)**. It centers the 49 adult disability, functioning, support-use, pain, fatigue, social-participation, and work-limitation items. This crosswalk includes a concise set of chronic-condition items that are especially relevant to disability analyses. It preserves exact question text where the source provides it and shows whether corresponding content is included in the proposed 2028 adult questionnaire.

At a glance

- The proposed 2028 adult questionnaire retains questions about six domains: seeing, hearing, walking/climbing steps, remembering/concentrating, self-care, and communication. These align with the Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS)
- Many more detailed functioning and support-use questions are not included, including mobility equipment and assistance, detailed walking measures, upper-body function, detailed cognition, and fatigue.
- The three items highlighted in the public-comment guidance for developmental disability identification—learning, receipt of help with everyday tasks, and age of disability onset before age 22—are not included in the proposed 2028 adult questionnaire.
- General pain questions are included in the proposed 2028 questionnaire. The current Washington Group anxiety/depression functional questions are not retained as a set; the redesign uses different clinical screening questions, while medication items are retained with changes.

Reading the detailed table below: RETAINED means a corresponding item is included in the proposed 2028 draft; NOT RETAINED means it is not included; MODIFIED/CHANGED means related content remains but wording or structure changes. WG-SS = Washington Group Short Set; WG-ES = Washington Group Extended Set.

Detailed adult disability/functioning crosswalk

Core functioning and support-use items

Topic / variable	Exact question text	Years collected	Proposed 2028 status / relevance to disability data
Vision **WEARGLSS_A**	Do you wear glasses or contact lenses? * Read if necessary: Persons who wear glasses to read or to do other occasional tasks should answer yes to this question.	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES support-use detail; 2028 seeing question references glasses but does not separately identify use.
Vision **VISIONDF_A**	Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses or contact lenses? Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	RETAINED — C1 WG-SS / WG-SS Enhanced / WG-ES
Hearing **HEARAID_A**	Do you use a hearing aid?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES support-use detail; 2028 hearing item references hearing aids but does not retain separate use/frequency items.
Hearing **HEARINGDF_A**	Do you have difficulty hearing? Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	RETAINED — C2 WG-SS / WG-SS Enhanced / WG-ES

Topic / variable	Exact question text	Years collected	Proposed 2028 status / relevance to disability data
Hearing HEARAIDFR_A	How often do you use your hearing aid(s)? Would you say all of the time, some of the time, rarely, or never?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES support-use detail; 2028 hearing item references hearing aids but does not retain separate use/frequency items.
Hearing HEARQTRM_A	Do you have difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person in a quiet room...even when using your hearing aid(s)?	2010-2018, 2021, 2024	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed hearing functioning; not included in proposed 2028.
Hearing HEARNYRM_A	Do you have difficulty hearing what is said in a conversation with one other person in a noisier room...even when using your hearing aid(s)?	2010-2018, 2021, 2024	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed hearing functioning; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility DIFF_A	Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps? Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	RETAINED — C3 WG-SS / WG-SS Enhanced / WG-ES / DD identification
Mobility EQUIP_A	Do you use any equipment or receive help for getting around?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES mobility/support-use detail; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility WLK100_A	Do you have difficulty walking 100 yards on level ground, that would be about the length of one football field or one city block? Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed mobility measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility WLK13M_A	Do you have difficulty walking a third of a mile on level ground, that would be the length of five football fields or five city blocks? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed mobility measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility STEPS_A	Do you have difficulty walking up or down 12 steps? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed mobility measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility CANEWLKR_A	Do you use any of the following... ...Cane or walker?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES mobility/support-use detail; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility WCHAIR_A	* Read if necessary: Do you use any of the following? ...Wheelchair or scooter?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES mobility/support-use detail; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility PERASST_A	* Read if necessary: Do you use any of the following? ...Someone's assistance?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES mobility/support-use detail; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility NOEQWLK100_A	WITHOUT THE USE OF YOUR AID, do you have difficulty walking 100 yards on level ground, that would be about the length of one football field or one city block? Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed mobility measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility NOEQWLK13M_A	WITHOUT THE USE OF YOUR AID, do you have difficulty walking a third of a mile on level ground, that would be the length of five football fields or five city blocks? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed mobility measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility NOEQSTEPS_A	WITHOUT THE USE OF YOUR AID, do you have difficulty walking up or down 12 steps? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed mobility measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility EQWLK100_A	WHEN USING YOUR AID, do you have difficulty walking 100 yards on level ground, that would be about the length of one football field or one city block? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed mobility measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Mobility EQWLK13M_A	WHEN USING YOUR AID, do you have difficulty walking a third of a mile on level ground, that would be the length of five football fields or five city blocks? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed mobility measure; not included in proposed 2028.

Topic / variable	Exact question text	Years collected	Proposed 2028 status / relevance to disability data
Mobility **EQSTEPS_A**	WHEN USING YOUR AID, do you have difficulty walking up or down 12 steps? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES
Cognition **COGMEMDFF_A**	Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating? *Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	RETAINED — C4 WG-SS / WG-SS Enhanced / WG-ES / DD identification
Cognition **COGTYPEDFF_A**	Is that a difficulty with remembering, concentrating, or both?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed cognition measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Cognition **COGFRQDFF_A**	How often do you have difficulty remembering? Would you say sometimes, often, or all of the time?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed cognition measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Cognition **COGAMTDFF_A**	Do you have difficulty remembering a few things, a lot of things, or almost everything?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES detailed cognition measure; not included in proposed 2028.
Self-Care / Upper Body **UPPSLFCR_A**	Do you have difficulty with self care, such as washing all over or dressing? Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	RETAINED — C5 WG-SS / WG-SS Enhanced / WG-ES / DD identification
Self-Care / Upper Body **UPPRAISE_A**	Do you have difficulty raising a 2 liter bottle of water or soda from waist to eye level? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG Enhanced/Extended upper-body functioning; not included in proposed 2028.
Self-Care / Upper Body **UPPOBJCT_A**	Do you have difficulty using your hands and fingers, such as picking up small objects, for example, a button or pencil, or opening or closing containers or bottles? *Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED WG Enhanced/Extended upper-body functioning; not included in proposed 2028.
Communication **COMDIFF_A**	Using your usual language, do you have difficulty communicating, for example, understanding or being understood? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2010-2026	RETAINED — C6 WG-SS / WG-SS Enhanced / WG-ES / DD identification
Communication **COMUSESL_A**	Do you use sign language?	2010-2018, 2021, 2024	NOT RETAINED WG-ES communication/support detail; sign-language use not separately identified in proposed 2028.

Mental health, pain, and fatigue items

Topic / variable	Exact question text	Years collected	Proposed 2028 status / relevance to disability data
Anxiety **ANXFREQ_A**	How often do you feel worried, nervous or anxious?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED — different anxiety screener proposed WG Enhanced/Extended anxiety functioning; proposed 2028 uses a different GAD-2 screening approach.
Anxiety **ANXMED_A**	Do you take prescription medication for these feelings? (In redesigned NHIS: "Are you currently taking prescription medication for anxiety or for feeling worried or nervous?")	2010-2026	RETAINED — modified Anxiety medication item remains with revised wording; functional frequency/intensity items do not.
Anxiety **ANXLEVEL_A**	Thinking about the last time you felt worried, nervous or anxious, how would you describe the level of these feelings?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED — different anxiety screener proposed WG Enhanced/Extended anxiety functioning; proposed 2028 uses a different GAD-2 screening approach.
Depression **DEPFREQ_A**	How often do you feel depressed?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED — different depression screener proposed WG Enhanced/Extended depression functioning; proposed 2028 uses a different PHQ-2 screening approach.

Topic / variable	Exact question text	Years collected	Proposed 2028 status / relevance to disability data
Depression DEPMED_A	Do you take prescription medication for depression? (In redesigned NHIS: "Are you currently taking prescription medication for depression?")	2010-2026	RETAINED — modified Depression medication item remains with revised wording; functional frequency/intensity items do not.
Depression DEPLEVEL_A	Thinking about the last time you felt depressed, how depressed did you feel?	2010-2026	NOT RETAINED — different depression screener proposed WG Enhanced/Extended depression functioning; proposed 2028 uses a different PHQ-2 screening approach.
Pain PAIFRQ3M_A	In the past three months, how often did you have pain?	2010-2021, 2023, 2025	RETAINED — C11 WG-ES pain content; general pain questions are included in proposed 2028.
Pain PAIAMNT_A	Thinking about the last time you had pain, how much pain did you have?	2010-2021, 2023, 2025	RETAINED — C12 WG-ES pain content; general pain questions are included in proposed 2028.
Pain PAIWKLM3M_A	Over the past three months, how often did your pain limit your life or work activities? Would you say never, some days, most days, or every day?	Not listed*	RETAINED — C13 WG-ES pain content; general pain questions are included in proposed 2028.
Fatigue FGEFRQTRD_A	In the past 3 months, how often did you feel very tired or exhausted? Would you say never, some days, most days, or every day?	2010-2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES fatigue measure; omitted in proposed 2028. Recent NCHS fatigue analysis used these items.
Fatigue FGELNGTRD_A	Thinking about the last time you felt very tired or exhausted, how long did it last? Would you say some of the day, most of the day, or all of the day?	2010-2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES fatigue measure; omitted in proposed 2028. Recent NCHS fatigue analysis used these items.
Fatigue FGELEVTRD_A	Thinking about the last time you felt this way, how would you describe the level of tiredness? Would you say a little, a lot, or somewhere in between?	2010-2018, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2026	NOT RETAINED WG-ES fatigue measure; omitted in proposed 2028. Recent NCHS fatigue analysis used these items.

Participation, learning, support, and developmental-onset items

Topic / variable	Exact question text	Years collected	Proposed 2028 status / relevance to disability data
Independence / Errands SOCERRNDS_A FLSHOP	Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor's office or shopping? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2019-2026 2010-2018	RETAINED — C7 DD identification
Social SOCSCLPAR_A FLSOCL	Because of a physical, mental, or emotional condition, do you have difficulty participating in social activities such as visiting friends, attending clubs and meetings, or going to parties? * Read if necessary: Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2019-2026 2010-2018	RETAINED — C8 Social activity limitation
Work SOCWRKLIM_A	Are you limited in the kind OR amount of work you can do because of a physical, mental or emotional problem? * Read if necessary: Work includes paid work, volunteer work, school work, and homework.	2019-2026	RETAINED — C9 DD identification / Work limitation
Work EMPDAYMISS_A or WKDAYR	During the past 12 months, about how many days of work did you miss because you had an illness, injury, or disability? * Read if necessary: Do not include family or paternity/maternity leave.	2021-2026 2010-2018	RETAINED — C10 Work limitation
Learning SOCLEARN_A	Do you have difficulty learning new things, for example, at school, work, or in other places? Would you say no difficulty, some difficulty, a lot of difficulty, or you cannot do this at all?	2026†	NOT RETAINED DD identification; first fielded in 2026. Proposed 2028 omission is a key issue in the companion guidance.
Receipt of Help SOCTASKS_A	Because of a physical, mental or emotional condition, does someone help you with everyday tasks such as grocery shopping, paying bills or visiting the doctor's office?	2026†	NOT RETAINED DD identification; first fielded in 2026. Proposed 2028 omission is a key issue in the companion guidance.
Age of Onset DEVDONSET_A	You said that you have difficulty with ^DIFF. Did ^THISDIFF begin before age 22?	2020-2026	NOT RETAINED DD identification; provides onset-before-22 information used with functional limitations.

Additional chronic-condition information relevant to disability analyses

These items are shown separately from the 49 functioning/disability questions. Some can identify condition-based populations; others describe condition-specific symptoms or limitations that are important when studying disability and health. They should not all be treated as direct disability identifiers.

Condition identification and condition-specific limitation

Topic	Exact 2026 question text	2026 content	Proposed 2028 status / relevance to disability data
Other Chronic Conditions	Have you EVER been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had ...Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, C.O.P.D., emphysema, or chronic bronchitis?	Annual Core	Retained - B10a COPD/emphysema/chronic bronchitis diagnosis retained.
Other Chronic Conditions	* Read if necessary: Have you EVER been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had ...Some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia (fy-bro-my-AL-jee- uh)?	Annual Core	Retained - B10b Arthritis/rheumatoid arthritis/gout/lupus/fibromyalgia diagnosis retained.
Other Chronic Conditions	* Read if necessary: Have you EVER been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had ...Dementia, including Alzheimer's disease?	Annual Core	No corresponding item identified Dementia/Alzheimer's diagnosis is not present in the proposed adult draft.
Other Chronic Conditions	* Read if necessary: Have you EVER been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had ...Any type of anxiety disorder? * Read if necessary: Some common types of anxiety disorders include generalized anxiety disorder, social anxiety disorder, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, obsessive- compulsive disorder, and phobias.	Annual Core	Diagnosis item not retained; symptoms retained 2028 B23-B24 retain anxiety symptoms, but not the 2026 'ever diagnosed with anxiety disorder' measure.
Other Chronic Conditions	* Read if necessary: Have you EVER been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had ...Any type of depression? * Read if necessary: Some common types of depression include major depression (or major depressive disorder), bipolar depression, dysthymia, post-partum depression, and seasonal affective disorder.	Annual Core	Diagnosis item not retained; symptoms retained 2028 B25-B26 retain depressive symptoms, but not the 2026 'ever diagnosed with depression' measure.
Chronic Fatigue Section	Have you EVER been told by a doctor or other health professional that you had Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) or Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (My-AL-jick In-seff-ah-low-my-uh-LIE-tiss) (ME)?	Sponsored Content	No corresponding item identified CFS/ME identification absent from proposed 2028 draft.
Chronic Fatigue Section	Do you still have Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) or ME? * Read if necessary: ME is also known as Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (My-AL-jick In-seff-ah-low- my-uh-LIE-tiss).	Sponsored Content	No corresponding item identified Current CFS/ME status absent.
Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	Has a doctor or other health professional EVER told you that you had Attention- Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder or ADHD or Attention-Deficit Disorder or ADD?	Sponsored Content	No corresponding item identified Adult ADHD/ADD identification absent.
Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	Do you currently have Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder or ADHD or Attention-Deficit Disorder or ADD?	Sponsored Content	No corresponding item identified Current ADHD/ADD status absent.
Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder	How old were you when a doctor or other health professional FIRST told you that you had ADHD or ADD?	Sponsored Content	No corresponding item identified Age at first ADHD/ADD diagnosis absent.
Arthritis	The next questions refer to your joints. Please do NOT include the back or neck. DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS, have you had any symptoms of pain, aching, or stiffness in or around a joint?	Sponsored Content	Not retained as arthritis-specific measure 2028 has general pain questions but not arthritis-specific joint symptoms.
Arthritis	Please think about the past 30 days, keeping in mind all of your joint pain or aching and whether or not you have taken medication. DURING THE PAST 30 DAYS, how bad was your joint pain ON AVERAGE? Please answer on a scale of 0 to 10 where 0 is no pain or aching and 10 is pain or aching as bad as it can be.	Sponsored Content	Generalized / replaced by broader pain severity 2028 C12 asks general pain severity, not average arthritis/joint pain on the 0-10 scale.
Arthritis	Earlier, you said that a doctor or other health professional had told you that you have some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia (fy-bro-my-AL-jee-uh). Are you now limited in any way in any of your usual activities because of arthritis or joint symptoms?	Sponsored Content	Partly replaced by broader limitation measure 2028 C13 measures general pain-related limitation, not arthritis-specific activity limitation.
Arthritis	In this next question we are referring to work for pay. Do arthritis or joint symptoms now affect whether you work, the type of work you do, or the amount of work you do?	Sponsored Content	Partly covered by general work limitation 2028 C9 measures general work limitation, not arthritis/joint-symptom effects specifically.

Broader chronic-condition content used in disability health analyses

Domain / 2026 IDs	What 2026 measures	Proposed 2028	Why it remains relevant
Hypertension **HYP.0020-.0050**	Ever diagnosed; repeated diagnosis; past-12-month status; medication	Partly retained - B1-B2	2028 retains ever diagnosis and current medication but not the separate repeated-visit and past-12-month status items.
High cholesterol **CHL.0010-.0030**	Ever diagnosed; past-12-month status; medication	Partly retained - B3-B4	2028 retains ever diagnosis and current medication; past-12-month status is not separate.
Asthma **AST.0010-.0040**	Ever asthma; still has asthma; attack in past year; ER/urgent care	Retained with redesign - B5-B8	2028 retains ever asthma and acute-care use; replaces current-status/attack questions with time since last attack and medication use.
Cardiovascular **CVC.0010-.0040**	Coronary heart disease; angina; heart attack; stroke	Partly retained - B9	CHD, heart attack and stroke retained; angina is not separately listed.
Diabetes **DIB section**	Prediabetes; diabetes; age at diagnosis; pills; insulin; type; selected sponsored treatment/monitoring detail	Core partly retained - B14-B19	Prediabetes, diabetes, age at diagnosis, pills and insulin retained; several detailed/sponsored items and diabetes type are not in the draft.
Cancer **CAN.0010-.0080**	Ever cancer; cancer type(s); age at diagnosis	Retained but simplified - B11-B13	2028 retains cancer, selected cancer types and age at diagnosis in a shorter structure.
Immunosuppression **ISN.0010-.0020**	Immune-weakening medication/treatment and current health condition that weakens the immune system	No corresponding item identified	Sponsored 2026 content relevant to medically complex populations; not a disability identifier by itself.

Fielding note. The earlier crosswalk identifies these chronic-condition items as 2026 Annual Core or Sponsored Content but does not establish a complete historical year range for each item. This version does not infer years that are not documented in the supplied sources.

† Learning (SOCLEARN_A) and receipt of help (SOCTASKS_A) were first fielded in 2026. The public-comment guidance notes that they are scheduled to remain in NHIS in 2027, but they are not included in the proposed 2028 questionnaire.

* The functioning-content spreadsheet does not provide a data-collection year for PAIWKLM3M_A. This crosswalk leaves that field explicit rather than inferring a year.

Scope note. This remains a focused public-comment companion, not a complete inventory of every health condition, treatment, injury, or outcome question in NHIS. The chronic-condition section restores information most directly useful for identifying condition-based populations or understanding disability-related health experiences.

Focused questions that can be used in a public comment

Consider using one or two questions that fit the concern you are raising; do not ask all of them. These are drawn from the companion NHIS Public Comment Guidance so that a person—or an AI drafting tool—can connect a specific crosswalk item to a focused question for NCHS.

Content and identification

- How will NCHS evaluate whether the 2028 question set can still identify people with significant long-term functional limitations, including people who may meet the DD Act definition?
- What is the minimum annual question set NCHS recommends for researchers who need to identify developmental disability in NHIS data?
- For each disability or functioning item proposed for removal, what evidence and criteria were used, and did paper-questionnaire or skip-logic constraints affect the decision?
- How will the proposed question set support analyses that currently use fuller Washington Group functioning measures beyond the Short Set?

Data use and continuity

- Which current NCHS, CDC, or other federal analyses rely on the functioning and disability items proposed for removal, and which of those analyses would no longer be possible or comparable after 2028?
- How will NCHS protect the ability to pool multiple years of data and compare trends for smaller disability populations?

- Why implement the redesign before a third year of the 2026 ACL-sponsored learning and receipt-of-help questions is available? Would NCHS consider phased implementation or delay if more time is needed?

Methods and representation

- How will NCHS test whether self-administered response changes participation or data quality for people with intellectual, cognitive, communication, sensory, physical, or mental health disabilities?
- How will NCHS measure and report differences in response, proxy use, missing data, or survey completion by disability and response mode?
- Will NCHS conduct and publish a bridge or pilot analysis showing how the new response mode affects response rates, proxy use, missing data, disability estimates, and accessibility for people who use assistance or assistive technology?

Review process

- How does the review and testing process for the 2028 redesign compare with the process used for the 2019 redesign, including multiple rounds of public input, expert panels, field testing, and a bridge sample?
- Will NCHS publish the findings from cognitive, usability, and field testing and provide an opportunity to comment on substantial revisions before the 2028 questionnaire is finalized?

If using AI. Upload this crosswalk, along with a detailed prompt that describes your interest in the NHIS changes (do not insert personal details like name, or email address).. There is more information and a SAMPLE prompt that you can customize at the end of the NHIS 2028 Public Comment guidance document.

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