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## Development and cross-validation of a short questionnaire to evaluate self-reported Positive Health; A cross sectional panel study of structural validity among a general Dutch population

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**DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS-VALIDATION OF A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE TO EVALUATE SELF-REPORTED  
POSITIVE HEALTH; A CROSS SECTIONAL PANEL STUDY OF STRUCTURAL VALIDITY AMONG A GENERAL DUTCH  
POPULATION**

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DECLARATIONS

**Ethical approval and consent to participate:** The study was conducted in accordance with current public regulations, laws, and the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Informed consent was given by each participant to be included as a LISS-panel member. For more information see: <https://www.lisspanel.nl/ethics>. The Medical Ethics Committee of Brabant (Tilburg, the Netherlands) reviewed this study and declared that the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act (WMO) did not apply to this study (study number NW2024-15).

**Consent for publication:** Not applicable

**Availability of data and materials:** The original dataset(s) supporting the conclusions of this article is(are) available from <https://www.lissdata.nl/access-data> upon request for researchers and policymakers.

**Competing interests:** MvV co-developed the MPH dialogue tool and works at the Institute for Positive Health.

**Funding:** Not applicable.

**Author contributions:** LNVV wrote the protocol and manuscript, and conducted the statistical analyses. Vvd contributed to the first part of the statistical analysis. BvdZ supervised the research, statistical analyses and the writing process. LNVV, BvdZ, MM and MvV participated at the research meetings concerning the item reduction process; content discussion and interpretation of the statistical output. MM and MvV contributed equally. All author’s reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

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## ABSTRACT

**Objectives:** In this study it was aimed to further develop and cross-validate a short questionnaire to measure self-reported Positive Health in general (Dutch) populations for evaluative purposes, stemming from the original 42 items of the My Positive Health dialogue tool (MPH). Positive Health refers to 'health from the perspective of patients and citizens' following the concept of Huber et. al. **Design and setting:** A cross sectional study was performed among a panel representative for the general adult Dutch population living at home. **Participants:** Response rate was 76%, 1327 of a total of 2457 respondents were female, and mean age (year) was  $53.3 \pm 17.8$ . **Methods:** First, item reduction was carried out through content discussions following statistical output retrieved from factor structures and loadings, inter-item correlations (IIC) and internal consistency (Cronbach's alphas). Next, among the other half of the study population, measurement properties for the developed short questionnaire were calculated using goodness of fit indices from confirmatory factor analyses (CFA). **Results:** The item reduction process ( $n=1199$ ) resulted in a questionnaire of 22 items (PH22) with a four-factor structure and explained variance of 62.4%. Cronbach's alphas were 0.84, 0.92, 0.81, and 0.78 for the renamed factors 'Physical fitness' (5 items), 'Contentment with life' (9 items), 'Daily life management' (5 items) and 'Future perspective' (3 items), respectively. Cross validation ( $n=1258$ ) showed adequate goodness of fit indices of the PH22, based on both first- and second-order CFA. The scores of the PH22 were normally distributed. No floor or ceiling effects were present. **Conclusions:** A short 22 item questionnaire to measure self-reported Positive Health in a general (Dutch) population for evaluative purposes such as scientific or policy research at Positive Health or patient-centered interventions was developed and cross-validated, named PH22. This study supports its structural validity. To use this questionnaire in practice its test-retest reliability and responsiveness should be known also. Future research has to reveal this.

### Strengths and limitations of this study

- The main strength of this study was that the choice to keep or remove an item during the development of the short Positive Health questionnaire was not only based on statistical output such as factor loadings, but combined with thorough content discussion by the expert team and judgement of inter-item correlations and internal consistency.
- This study is robust in terms of its large sample size, the high response rate and the representativeness of the general Dutch population.

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- Development of the short Positive Health questionnaire was based on the items of the My Positive Health dialogue tool, which is widely used in the Netherlands.
- It can be argued that content discussion is less objective or transparent to follow than statistical output. To overcome this, the results from the content discussion were thematized and each step of the item reduction process thoroughly reported.
- Choices made by the expert team, might have been more support-based if more representatives were included in the content discussion, i.e., if focus groups were organized. Nevertheless, the members of the research team represent different backgrounds and relevant expertise. Moreover, it should be realized that the basic set of items of the My Positive Health dialogue tool was based on health indicators retrieved from a large study among various stakeholders and judged relevant.

**Key words**

Positive Health; patient reported outcome measures; general population; structural validity; cross-validation; measurement properties; internal consistency; factor loadings; goodness of fit indices

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## INTRODUCTION

Since the concept of Positive Health was introduced in the Netherlands, a mind shift unrolled among healthcare workers and beyond. The approach of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being as formulated in the constitution of the World Health Organization(1) changed to a more dynamic approach of health focusing on self-management and the ability to adapt to physical, mental and social challenges during life(2). This new vision on health is being integrated among all kinds of domains and political agendas within the Netherlands and abroad(3).

To support the applicability of this vision on health in daily healthcare practice, the dialogue tool My Positive Health (MPH)(4) was developed. The content of this dialogue tool was derived from a large mixed methods study with interviews into the perceptions about health among different stakeholder groups such as patients, citizens, and healthcare professionals(5). This inductive, bottom- up approach enabled the researchers to gain a thorough insight into the perceptions about health. From these perceptions 32 aspects emerged, representing indicators for (positive) health(5). Accordingly, these aspects were thematized among six dimensions named: bodily functions, mental functions and perception, spiritual existential dimension, quality of life, social and societal participation and daily functioning. This operationalization of health was called *Positive Health*, and from here the 42-item MPH dialogue tool was developed. This MPH tool aims to support the conversation about Positive Health between patient and care worker and stimulate self-reflection(4).

At an individual, organizational, community, regional and national level, the concept (broad and dynamic vision on health) and method (MPH tool and dialogue) are increasingly integrated. The Dutch government considers Positive Health a promising approach to promoting well-being and handle the increasing burden of disease(6). To assess the effectiveness of working with this Positive Health approach, the need for an instrument to measure self-reported Positive Health has been arising(7,8). Although the MPH is a relevant dialogue tool for the conversation about health(3), it should be emphasized that the MPH is not obviously useful for measuring purposes; the item grouping among the six dimensions of the MPH tool was not the result of a study aiming to assess structural validity in order to develop an outcome measure instrument.

To our knowledge, two instruments were developed for this measuring purpose; the Positive Health measurement scale with 17 items (PH17)(9,10) and the Positive Health measurement tool using all 42 dialogue items (PH42)(11). These two instruments face some limitations. Although measurement properties for the

PH17 seemed adequate(10).the initial item selection of the PH17 took place among citizens in just one part of the Netherlands and response rate was low (25%)(9), questioning the generalizability of their results. Even more important, the methodological approach for item reduction included judgement of factor loadings, but without, simultaneously, content discussion and judgement of inter-item correlations and maintaining acceptable internal consistencies as recommended by others(12). Without these steps relevant items might be deleted, and shortchange its content and discriminant validity. The other instrument, the PH42, was developed among a representative general population(11), but consists of 42 items which might not be preferable for all practices. From practical and methodological perspectives, it is preferable to use a shorter questionnaire, which requires less effort and results in higher response rates, especially important during repeated measurements needed to evaluate (positive) health or patient-centred interventions.

The aim of this study was to develop and cross-validate a short questionnaire to measure self-reported Positive Health for evaluation purposes in scientific or policy research at Positive Health promoting, or patient-centered interventions in general populations. Its structural validity was assessed and the more extensive method for item reduction was applied among a representative study population. The conditions set were that the questionnaire had to contain the original items of the MPH dialogue tool to retain its recognizability with daily practice and with Positive Health as operationalised by Huber et. al.(5), referring to ‘health from the perspective of patients and citizens’.

**METHODS**

*Study design and participants*

In this paper, we make use of data from the LISS panel (Longitudinal Internet studies for the Social Sciences) managed by the non-profit research institute Centerdata (Tilburg University, the Netherlands). The LISS panel consists of a representative sample of approximately 7,000 individuals from 5,000 households from the general Dutch population. The panel is based on a true probability sample of households drawn from the population register by Statistics Netherlands(13). LISS panel members complete monthly online questionnaires and are paid for each completed questionnaire. To become a LISS panel member, at least one person in the household has to be proficient in the Dutch language. To minimize selection bias, households were provided with a computer and internet connection if they could otherwise not participate. Response rates for this panel are high (>80%). More information about the LISS panel can be found at: [www.lissdata.nl](http://www.lissdata.nl).

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To answer our research question a cross sectional study was performed among a random selection of members from the LISS panel. From this panel, 2,500 adults ( $\geq 18$  years), one per household, were randomly selected to participate. The process of item reduction and cross-validation were carried out in two randomly split samples of this study population. Ethical review was conducted by the METC Brabant (Tilburg, the Netherlands, study number NW2024-15).

This study was reported according to the COSMIN Reporting Guideline<sup>(14)</sup> recommended for studies that evaluate the measurement properties of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs). The terms dimension and factor are used interchangeably.

#### *Data collection and administration*

During November 2020 the selected study population was asked to complete the original 42 items of the My Positive Health questionnaire (MPH) (see Additional file A) receiving one reminder after 2 weeks. The same as the original MPH dialogue tool the items were introduced per dimension using the original introduction, answer options and icons of the dialogue tool<sup>(4)</sup>. In contrast to the original tool the respondents did not see their results among a spiderweb. Respondents completed the electronic questionnaire at home using the regular internet platform of LISS receiving a private link. Characteristics of the study population such as gender, age, level of education and health care use were available from the regular LISS panel HEALTH survey (<https://www.lissdata.nl/research/liss-core-study>).

#### *My Positive Health (MPH) dialogue tool*

The MPH consists of 42 statements about Positive Health, representing the 32 indicators for (positive) health as assessed by Huber et al.<sup>(5)</sup>. For practical use, they were formulated to a simple language level (B1). The statements are scored on an 11-point Likert scale ranging from 0 'completely disagree' to 10 'completely agree'. Higher scores indicate better health. Also, the six dimensions (bodily functions, mental functions and perception, spiritual existential dimension, quality of life, social and societal participation and daily functioning) are visualised in a spider web with six axes, representing the dimensions and ranging from value 0 (in the centre for poor) to 10 (on the periphery, for excellent). The self-reported MPH questionnaire takes 10-20

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3 131 minutes to complete. Over the last years it was shown by various users (citizens, patients and professionals)  
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5 132 that the MPH was a relevant dialogue tool including comprehensiveness and comprehensibility of the items,  
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7 133 response options, and instructions(3).  
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9 134  
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11 135 *Preconditions for the short Positive Health questionnaire to be developed*  
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13 136 Preconditions formulated by the research team for an useful self-reported questionnaire to measure Positive  
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15 137 Health were; 1) a multidimensional structure was held to ensure a broad representation of health conform  
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17 138 literature(5,15), 2) items were not reformulated to keep recognizability with the specific Positive Health  
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19 139 dialogue approach according to MPH(4), 3) to hold model stability each dimension contained at least three  
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21 140 items (12), and 4) the short questionnaire contained a maximum of about 20 items to be user-friendly.  
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23 141  
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25 142 *Statistical analyses*  
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27 143 Development: Process of item reduction  
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29 144 Prior to this study, Van Druten et al. developed the measurement tool PH42 (11). They assessed the factor  
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31 145 structure of the 42 original items of the dialogue tool MPH. This resulted in a model with a six-factor structure  
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33 146 including all 42 items with an explained variance of 68%, no inter-items correlations > 0.9, factor loadings  
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35 147 ranging from 0.36 to 0.94, Cronbach's alpha's ranging from 0.74 up to 0.97, and acceptable fit indices . This  
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37 148 study of Van Druten et al. was based on the same dataset as our study. Their results (see Additional file B-C)  
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39 149 were the starting point for the item reduction process of our study. We used the same settings to assess  
40  
41 150 dimensionality during the process of item reduction: extraction method; Principal Component Analysis  
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43 151 (PCA)(16–18), rotation method; Oblimin with Kaiser Normalisation, and eigen value >1.0 using SPSS V27.0.  
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45 152 Analyses were performed on similar randomly split half of the study population (n=1199).  
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48 153 The following steps of the item reduction process were taken conform the methodology published by  
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50 154 De Vet and Terwee <sup>12,15</sup>. Content discussions initiated through statistical output were performed in different  
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52 155 rounds with experts taking part in the research team. First, the items of the PH42 were assessed per factor on  
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54 156 low (<0.2; i.e. possibly unrelated to the construct) and high (>0.7; i.e. possibly overlapping and thus redundant  
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56 157 in the construct) inter-item correlations(12). Based on content discussion low or highly correlated items were  
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58 158 held or removed. Then, PCA was performed. Items that hardly loaded at all on any of the factors were  
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60 159 considered for deletion. A minimum factor loading of 0.5 was taken as threshold(12). Also, items loading

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>0.32(12,19) on more than one factor were discussed. Based on content discussion, items were held or removed. Content was leading, meaning that for some items, high correlations or low factor loadings might be accepted. Items were deleted one by one repeating PCA every step, because deletion of one item might change structures or loadings of other items(12). Final decisions to delete an item were combined with judgement of consequences for internal consistencies (Cronbach's alpha) aimed between 0.7-0.9 (12).

#### Cross validation

To assess goodness of fit of the developed short Positive Health questionnaire, confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) was performed in the second half of the study population (n=1258) CFA for normal continuous data with maximum likelihood (ML) as estimation method was used (R Lavaan 0.6.14)(20). Goodness of fit indices included; chi-square ( $X^2$ ) (a non-significant  $X^2$  is desirable, however in a large sample, the  $X^2$  is usually significant), comparative fit index (CFI), root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR). Indicators of model fit were(12,21); CFI values between 0.90 and 0.95 with >0.95 indicating superior model fit, RMSEA values <0.05 represent good fit, 0.05-0.08 acceptable fit, >0.08 medium fit and >0.1 poor fit, and SRMR value of <0.08 representing good fit. To assess if the item scores of the questionnaire fit the factor sum scores first-order CFA was executed. To investigate if the factor sum scores fit the total sum score of the questionnaire as well, second-order CFA was executed(12,20).

#### Scores of the developed questionnaire

Last, the distribution of the total and factor sum scores of the developed questionnaire were described; mean, median, standard deviation, minimum, maximum, skewness and kurtosis (< -1 and > 1), and floor and ceiling effects ( $\geq 15\%$  of the respondents scores lowest or highest possible scores, respectively(22)).

#### *Sample size calculation*

Size of both randomly split subgroups (n=1199, n=1259)(11) was adequate to apply PCA and CFA; rule of thumb is that four to ten respondents per item of the questionnaire are included, with a minimum of 100 (23).

#### *Patient and public involvement*

Patients or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of our research.

**RESULTS**

*Participants*

The response rate was 76% with 777 respondents not responding. Twelve respondents not completing the questionnaire completely were excluded, leaving 2457 respondents for the analyses; 54% female, mean age (years) 53.3 ± 17.8, 39.9% high level of education, and 39.8% visited a medical specialist at the hospital, psychiatrist, psychologist or psychotherapist last 12 months. Next, the study population was randomly split: n=1199 and n=1258, in which the process of item reduction and cross-validation was carried out, respectively.

*Development: Process of item reduction*

LNvV, BvdZ, MM and MvV participated at six research meetings of an hour between May and August 2023 concerning the item reduction process; content discussion and interpretation of the statistical output. During **round 1** interitem correlations were explored for the six-factor structure of the PH42 (see Additional file C ; . From all factors four contained half or more items that were too highly (>0.7) correlated to another item: Factor 1 (11 out of 13), factor 2 (4/8), factor 3 (2/7), factor 4 (5/8), factor 5 (0/3) and factor 6 (2/3), respectively. Two of all items correlated low (<0.2) with each other but adequately with the other items; factor 2 (2/8). First, the items with interitem correlations >0.8 were discussed on their content, next those items with correlations >0.7. Initiated by these high correlations content discussion led to choices for deletion of an item for various reasons such as inadequate formulation of the statement, not being inclusive or (not) being specific. In Table 1 detailed information about the choices made per item are shown.

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**Table 1.** Process of item reduction with the PH42 questionnaire as starting point

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		Round 1			Round 2			Round 3			Round 5			Final Items PH22 (✓) Or round deleted (R)
		IIC ● Item deleted Content <sup>1,2</sup>			FL ● Item deleted Content <sup>1,2</sup>			FL ● Item deleted Content <sup>1,2</sup>			IIC, CA ● Item deleted Content <sup>1,2</sup>			
Acceptance, meaningfulness and satisfaction with life														
IPH25	Feeling well-balanced	>0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH24	Feeling good	>0.8	●	F	Loads double	●	C,D							R2
IPH23	Being happy	>0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH22	Enjoyment	>0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH16	Being high-spirited	0.7-0.8	●	F										✓
IPH11	Being cheerful	0.7-0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH19	Accepting life	0.7-0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	F	✓
IPH20	IPH20 Being grateful	0.7-0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	A,C	R4
IPH15	Having a meaningful life	0.7-0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH12	Accepting yourself													✓
IPH18	Feeling confident about own future	0.7-0.8	●	F	Loads double	●	B							R2
IPH14	Having control	0.7-0.8	●	F										✓
IPH26	Feeling safe													✓
Physical health and functioning														
IPH7	Exercise	0.7-0.8	●	C										R1
IPH6	Physical condition	0.7-0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	F	✓
IPH2	Feeling fit	>0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	F	✓
IPH1	Feeling healthy	>0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH41	Being able to work				FL<0.5, Loads double	●	A							R2
IPH3	Having physical complaints or pain				FL<0.5	●	F							✓
IPH4	Sleeping pattern				Loads double	●	F	Loads double	●	F				✓
IPH5	Eating pattern													✓
Self-management														
IPH40	Managing money													✓
IPH37	Knowing your limitations	0.7-0.8	●	F										✓
IPH38	Knowledge of health	0.7-0.8	●	E										R1
IPH39	Managing time													✓
IPH36	Looking after yourself													✓
IPH28	Having enough money				Loads double	●	A, B							R2
IPH42	Asking for help							FL<0.5	●	F				✓
Social network and societal roles														
IPH32	Having the support of others	>0.8	●	F										✓
IPH31	Doing fun things together	>0.8	●	A										R1
IPH33	Belonging	0.7-0.8	●	A										R1
IPH30	Being taken seriously	0.7-0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	A,D	R4
IPH29	Social contacts	0.7-0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	F	✓
IPH27	Living conditions													✓
IPH35	Being interested in society				FL<0.5	●	D							R2
IPH34	Doing meaningful things													✓
Personal development														
IPH21	Continue learning													✓
IPH17	Wanting to achieve ideals													✓
IPH13	Being able to handle changes				FL<0.5	●	F							✓
Cognition														
IPH8	Being able to remember things	0.7-0.8	●	A										R1
IPH9	Being able to concentrate	0.7-0.8	●	F	FL<0.5	●	B							R2
IPH10	Being able to communicate		●	E										R1

IPH; Item number of the original MyPositiveHealth dialogue tool (See Suppl.1)

<sup>1</sup>Results content discussion expressed as A-F <sup>2</sup> to delete or hold an item supported by the measurement properties: ICC; interitem correlations, FL; factor loadings, CA; Cronbach's alphas extracted during exploratory factor analyses.

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3 222 <sup>2</sup>A to F; A Content is sufficiently reflected in other questions, B Content does not sufficiently match the factor, C Question/Wording not  
4 223 inclusive, D Wording not specific enough, too broad, E Unclear wording, may not be properly understood, F Retained for specific content.  
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7 226 For the factor ‘Cognition’ the content discussion resulted in that only one item was retained. It was accepted by  
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9 227 the research team that this factor would not continue to exist as dimension of Positive Health. In total, in  
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11 228 **round 1** 12 out of 42 items, originating from each of the six factors, were deleted. For the remaining items  
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13 229 (n=30) PCA was applied.  
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15 230 At **round 2** PCA with 30 items resulted in a four-factor structure with explained variance of 60.7% (see  
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17 231 Additional file D for factor loadings). Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett’s test was statistically significant  
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19 232 (0.96;  $p \leq .001$ ). Factor loadings ranged from 0.369 to 0.780. A new factor with 15 items arose from the former  
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21 233 factor ‘Acceptance, meaningfulness and satisfaction with life’ and the factor ‘Social network and societal roles’  
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23 234 of the PH42. Based on the content of these items this new combined factor was renamed by the research team  
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25 235 and further called ‘Contentment with life’ (15 items). The other factors were comparable to round 1 (i.e., to the  
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27 236 PH42 model), except that the factor Cognition was no longer part of the model. Also, one item; IPH41 about  
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29 237 ‘being able to work’, loaded highest, but low (0.495), on the factor ‘Self-management’ instead of the factor  
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31 238 ‘Physical health and functioning’. The item about concentration (IPH9), kept from the former factor Cognition,  
32  
33 239 loaded highest, but low (0.369), on the new factor ‘Contentment with life’. Five items had a factor loading (FL)  
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35 240  $<0.5$ , and five items loaded also high on another factor ( $FL > 0.32$ ). Of these items, three items were retained  
36  
37 241 based on the content discussion (See Table 1). For example; the items about sleeping pattern (IPH4) and having  
38  
39 242 no pain or complaints (IPH3), both part of the factor ‘Physical health and functioning’, were judged to be  
40  
41 243 specific content that should be held for the measurement tool. For similar reasons item IPH13 (being able to  
42  
43 244 handle changes) was kept. In total, in **round 2** 6 out of 30 items were deleted. In addition, the items selected to  
44  
45 245 delete during round 2 were ranked by the expert team to process the order of item reduction in subsequent  
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47 246 PCA. First those items with low factor loadings  $<0.5$  were deleted from the model (in following order; IPH9,  
48  
49 247 IPH35, IPH41). Next those items with also a high factor loading ( $> 0.32$ ) on another factor were deleted (IPH18,  
50  
51 248 IPH28, IPH24). PCA was executed and checked per deleted item. No changing structures were seen.  
52  
53 249 In **round 3**, PCA with 24 items resulted in a similar four-factor structure as round 2 with explained  
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55 250 variance of 62.4% (see Additional file E for factor loadings). KMO and Bartlett’s test was statistically significant  
56  
57 251 (0.96;  $p \leq .001$ ). Factor loadings ranged from 0.474 to 0.855. Overall, there was 1 item with a low factor loading  
58  
59 252 ( $<0.5$ ), and 1 item with factor loadings  $>0.32$  on more than one factor. It concerned the item about sleeping  
60

pattern (IPH4), similar to the results of round 2, and the item about asking for help from official institutes (IPH42). Both items were retained because of its specific and relevant content. In this round no items were deleted.

At **round 4** interitem correlations and Cronbach's alpha (CA) were judged for this four-factor structure with 24 items. For the factor 'Contentment with life' 4/11 items were highly correlated ( $>0.7$  but  $<0.8$ ) and CA was high (0.94). Two additional items were deleted from this factor. There was some doubt about the content of item IPH26 (feeling safe) and its fit among the factor Contentment with life. It was decided to retain this item because it was the only item about this specific subject and considered to be an important aspect of Positive Health. For the factor 'Physical health and functioning' two items were highly correlated, but both were kept because of its specific content and good CA of the factor ( $n=5$ ,  $CA=0.78$ ). No high interitem correlations nor CA were present among the other factors Self-management ( $n=5$ ,  $CA=0.81$ ) and Personal development ( $n=3$ ,  $CA=0.74$ ). In total, in **round 4**, 2 out of 24 items were deleted. For the remaining items ( $n=22$ ) PCA was applied again.

At **round 5**, PCA with 22 items showed similar four-factor structure with explained variance of 62.4% (see Table 2 for factor loadings and Table 3A-D for Interitem correlations). KMO and Bartlett's test was statistically significant (0.95;  $p \leq 0.001$ ). The factor Self-management contained the only item with low FL (0.476). Based on the statistical output and its content no further items were deleted.

**Table 2.** Factor loadings of PH model of 22 items (round 5) ( $n=1199$ )

	Factor <sup>1</sup>			
	Contentment with life	Physical fitness	Daily life management	Future perspective
IPH32 Having the support of others	<b>0.800</b>	-0.139	0.042	0.057
IPH27 Living conditions	<b>0.785</b>	-0.049	0.098	-0.124
IPH29 Social contacts	<b>0.753</b>	-0.047	0.032	0.096
IPH26 Feeling safe	<b>0.669</b>	0.088	0.083	0.063
IPH16 Being high-spirited	<b>0.648</b>	0.236	-0.028	0.181
IPH19 Accepting life	<b>0.630</b>	0.114	0.037	0.162
IPH14 Having control	<b>0.566</b>	0.124	0.134	0.216
IPH12 Accepting yourself	<b>0.566</b>	0.209	0.113	0.076
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	<b>0.538</b>	0.106	0.074	0.237
IPH2 Feeling fit	0.079	<b>0.689</b>	0.134	0.153
IPH6 Physical condition	0.019	<b>0.686</b>	0.132	0.191
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.385	<b>0.667</b>	-0.101	-0.193
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	-0.145	<b>0.560</b>	0.052	0.153
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.295	<b>0.545</b>	0.240	-0.184
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.033	0.026	<b>0.855</b>	-0.062
IPH36 Looking after yourself	-0.087	0.123	<b>0.793</b>	0.021

IPH40	Managing money	0.101	-0.036	<b>0.781</b>	-0.081
IPH39	Managing time	-0.018	0.067	<b>0.768</b>	0.054
IPH42	Asking for help	0.190	-0.198	<b>0.476</b>	0.169
IPH21	Continue learning	0.060	0.040	0.053	<b>0.760</b>
IPH17	Wanting to achieve ideals	0.153	0.147	-0.061	<b>0.705</b>
IPH13	Being able to handle changes	0.171	-0.018	0.094	<b>0.610</b>

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization. Pattern matrix. rotation converged in 8 iterations

<sup>1</sup> During the process of item reduction the names of the factors were Contentment with life, , Physical health and functioning, Self-management and Personal development. Afterwards these were renamed by the research team into Contentment with life, Physical fitness, Daily life management, and Future perspective.

**Table 3A.** Interitem correlation matrix of factor *Contentment with life*<sup>1</sup> of the 22 item PH model (n=1199)

	IPH12	IPH14	IPH16	IPH19	IPH26	IPH27	IPH29	IPH32	IPH34
IPH12 Accepting yourself	1.000	0.670	0.635	0.667	0.574	0.479	0.517	0.485	0.527
IPH14 Having control	0.670	1.000	0.669	0.664	0.639	0.545	0.591	0.516	0.583
IPH16 Being high-spirited	0.635	0.669	1.000	0.670	0.597	0.558	0.590	0.548	0.628
IPH19 Accepting life	0.667	0.664	0.670	1.000	0.596	0.492	0.512	0.506	0.524
IPH26 Feeling safe	0.574	0.639	0.597	0.596	1.000	0.605	0.523	0.552	0.521
IPH27 Living conditions	0.479	0.545	0.558	0.492	0.605	1.000	0.509	0.582	0.485
IPH29 Social contacts	0.517	0.591	0.590	0.512	0.523	0.509	1.000	0.695	0.607
IPH32 Having support of others	0.485	0.516	0.548	0.506	0.552	0.582	0.695	1.000	0.557
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	0.527	0.583	0.628	0.524	0.521	0.485	0.607	0.557	1.000

**Table 3B.** Interitem correlation matrix of factor *Physical fitness*<sup>1</sup> of the 22 item PH model (n=1199)

	IPH2	IPH3	IPH4	IPH5	IPH6
IPH2 Feeling fit	1.000	0.361	0.488	0.516	<b>0.735</b>
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	0.361	1.000	0.262	0.256	0.313
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.488	0.262	1.000	0.529	0.462
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.516	0.256	0.529	1.000	0.537
IPH6 Physical condition	<b>0.735</b>	0.313	0.462	0.537	1.000

**Table 3C.** Interitem correlation matrix of factor *Daily life management*<sup>1</sup> of the 22 item PH model (n=1199)

		IPH36	IPH37	IPH39	IPH40	IPH42
IPH36	Looking after yourself	1.000	0.656	0.501	0.503	0.305
IPH37	Knowing your limitations	0.656	1.000	0.628	0.569	0.393
IPH39	Managing time	0.501	0.628	1.000	0.554	0.417
IPH40	Managing money	0.503	0.569	0.554	1.000	0.443
IPH42	Asking for help	0.305	0.393	0.417	0.443	1.000

**Table 3D.** Interitem correlation matrix of factor *Future perspective*<sup>1</sup> of the 22 item PH model (n=1199)

	IPH13	IPH17	IPH21
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	1.000	0.449	0.483
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.449	1.000	0.534
IPH21 Continue learning	0.483	0.534	1.000

<sup>1</sup> During the process of item reduction the names of the factors were Contentment with life, , Physical health and functioning, Self-management and Personal development. Afterwards these were renamed by the research team into Contentment with life, Physical fitness, Daily life management, and Future perspective.

In summary, through the 5 rounds of item reduction evaluation and discussions, 20 out of 42 items were deleted resulting in a short self-reported questionnaire to measure Positive Health consisting of four

295 dimensions and 22 items, hereafter called the PH22. The dimensions were renamed by the research team into  
 296 1) Physical fitness, 2) Contentment with life, 3) Daily life management, and 4) Future perspective (see Table 4).  
 297

**Table 4.** The 22 item self-reported Positive Health questionnaire (PH22)

Item number of the dialogue tool	Item
Physical fitness	
IPH2	I feel fit
IPH3	I have no physical complaints or pain
IPH4	I sleep well
IPH5	I eat well
IPH6	I recover quickly after exercise, such as sports
Contentment with life	
IPH12	I accept myself for who I am
IPH14	I feel in control of my life
IPH16	In the mornings. I look forward to the day ahead
IPH19	I accept life as it comes
IPH26	I feel safe
IPH27	I am content with where and with whom I live
IPH29	I am in good contact with other people
IPH32	I have people who support me when I need it
IPH34	I consider my job or other activities to be meaningful
Daily life management	
IPH36	I am well capable of looking after myself. for example with regard to personal hygiene. getting dressed. shopping. cooking
IPH37	I know my limitations
IPH39	I am well capable of planning my day
IPH40	I am well capable of managing the money that I have each month
IPH42	I know how to apply for benefits or getting assistance from official agencies when necessary
Future perspective	
IPH13	I look for solutions to change difficult situations
IPH17	I have ideals that I would like to achieve
IPH21	I want to continue learning throughout my life

298  
 299 It was accepted for the PH22 in favour of keeping specific content that; 1) the factor 'Contentment with life'  
 300 had high CA (0.92), 2) the factor 'Physical fitness' contained two highly correlated items but with an adequate  
 301 CA of 0.78, and 3) the factor 'Daily life management' contained an item with low FL (also an adequate CA of  
 302 0.81).

303

#### 304 *Cross-validation*

305 The four-factor structure of the PH22 had an acceptable fit in first and second order CFA; 1) significant  $X^2$   
 306 ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), CFI of 0.902, RMSEA of 0.079 with a 90% confidence interval of 0.076 to 0.082, and SMSR of 0.047,

and 2) significant  $\chi^2$  ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), CFI of 0.901, RMSEA of 0.079 with a 90% confidence interval of 0.075 to 0.0782, and SMSR of 0.047, respectively.

*Scores of the developed short Positive Health questionnaire*

The scores of the PH22 were interpreted normally distributed but with slightly more outliers for the lower scores and higher frequency of scores around the mean, which was especially seen for the scores of the factor 'Daily life management'. No floor or ceiling effects were present (see Table 5).

**Table 5.** Descriptive statistics of the PH22 scores (n=1258)

	Contentment with life	Physical fitness	Daily life management	Future perspective	Total score PH22
	9 items (score range 0-90)	5 items (score range 0-50)	5 items (score range 0-50)	3 items (score range 0-30)	22 items (score range 0-220)
Mean	69.72	34.91	41.36	21.68	167.67
Median	72	36	42	22	171
SD	12.916	8.265	6.275	4.906	27.612
Skewness	-0.909	-0.526	-0.93	-0.718	-0.733
Kurtosis	0.933	0.225	1.118	0.463	0.623
Minimum	17	5	14	3	59
Maximum	90	50	50	30	220
P15	56	26	35	17	139
P85	82	44	48	27	195

**DISCUSSION**

In this study a relatively short questionnaire to measure self-reported Positive Health was composed and cross-validated among a general (Dutch) population. The questionnaire contains 22 items stemming from the original My Positive Health (MPH) dialogue tool with 42 items. Structural validity and internal consistency were satisfactory, supporting the use of this questionnaire for evaluative purposes in scientific or policy research. This questionnaire is called the PH22.

The different methodological approaches of item reduction for the PH17(9) and PH22 resulted in a different set of items and measurement properties. Contrary to the development of the PH17, during the development of the PH22, the approach by De Vet et al.(12) was used for item reduction, which includes content discussion and judgement of internal consistency next to highest factor loadings. First, these steps are considered essential to the item reduction process to avoid withdrawing relevant items. Second, retaining items with the highest factor loadings per factor without the other steps can lead to overlap, i.e. the answer to

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one question predicts the answer to the second, thus providing information as if it were merely one item.

Overall, the approach by De Vet et al.(12) most likely improves a questionnaire's discriminative ability, which means that a tool is better able to generate different scores for populations with different levels of Positive Health. This is considered an essential condition for a measurement instrument, particularly for instruments aiming to evaluate interventions or follow cohorts. The too high internal consistency found for at least parts of the PH17 dimensions might be a consequence of this. Looking at the PH17, internal inconsistency was high for almost all dimensions, especially related to the low number of items per factor (2-3 items; Cronbach's alpha (CA); 0.90, 0.89, 0.77, 0.93, 0.89, 0.84). More items result in higher CA by definition. For the PH22, the dimension 'Contentment with life' also had too high internal consistency (CA=0.92), but the factor also consisted of nine items, what might (partly) explain the high CA. The other dimensions of the PH22 showed good internal consistency, with CA ranging from 0.74 to 0.81. Finally, both PH17(9) and PH22 development started with the 42 items of the MPH dialogue, but the different methodological approaches resulted in other sets of items; only eight items corresponded. When comparing the PH22 to the PH42(11), its internal consistency and user-friendliness improved because of fewer items, at the expense of only a bit less explained variance (62% and 68%, respectively).

We presumed the 42 items of the MPH to be a content-valid basis to compose a measurement instrument, reflecting 'health from the perspective of patients and citizens' as assessed by Huber et al(5). The items of the MPH tool were formulated based on health indicators emerged from a large concept elicitation interview study among various stakeholders including patients and citizens(5), generating a solid basis for its content. In the meantime, studies showed that scores from the PH17 and PH42 correlated with constructs like quality of life, resilience and recovery (10,11,24) and with level of education and healthcare use (24). Moreover, the MPH was shown by various users as a relevant and comprehensible dialogue tool(3). We followed an inductive approach towards the development of the PH22. Thereby, four dimensions emerged which we named; 'Physical fitness', 'Contentment with life', 'Daily life management' and 'Future perspective' aligning with the core elements of the dynamic concept of (positive) health by Huber et al.(2,5).

During the development of the dynamic concept by Huber et al.(2) and during its elaboration into Positive Health(5), a deliberate choice was made to strive for an open concept instead of a more demarcated definition. Nevertheless, when creating a measurement instrument, it is important to establish a clear construct(25). It should be noted that no widely agreed construct for Positive Health exists so far (25,26). As

described above, in this study we chose the construct for the measurement tool to reflect the original concept of health by Huber et al (2) 'Health as the ability to adapt and to self-manage, in the face of social, physical and emotional challenges'. This concept closely fits a recently proposed description of positive health: 'reserve in capacities'(26). Recently, another Dutch research group published the 32-item Context-sensitive Positive Health Questionnaire (CPHQ)(27). This measurement tool aligns the concept of Positive Health with the 'Capability Approach' (28). Accordingly, they formulated the following construct definition for their measurement tool: "The extent to which one is capable to adapt and to thrive given one's physical, mental, social and contextual opportunities". As a result, the CPHQ included more context-related items than the PH22, such as items about feeling disadvantaged because of sexuality or cultural background or feeling represented by politics. Nevertheless, the PH22 and CPHQ also overlap, both including capabilities and functionings (beings and doings). For the methodological process of item reduction towards the 32 item CPHQ, similar as were for the PH17, the three items with highest factor loadings (>0.4 without cross-loadings) were leading, possibly hampering its discriminant validity. Last, contrary to the CPHQ, the PH22 consists only of original items from the MPH to keep recognizability with the Positive Health approach in practice. As 'Positive Health' is a novice approach, the discussion as to which construct or theoretical framework approximates best should continue. Moreover, Van Druten et al.(15) pointed out that conceptualization of health is person- and context-dependent, which necessitates the existence of various constructs. Therefore, different definitions and theoretical frameworks, such as Positive Health, Reserve Capacity Model(29) or Capability Approach(28), should exist side by side. At the moment the CPHQ is being further developed and assessed(30). One part of the research consists of comprehensive focus groups with various stakeholders discussing and prioritizing items anew with the aim to shorten the questionnaire and resulting in a broad supported instrument to assess the broad concept of health. It is of interest to explore how these instruments can supplement each other, or in other words, which instrument serves which aim and context best. Future choices of which tool to use should not only depend on the measurement properties and usability of each tool but also on which construct definition is preferred as the outcome to measure (8,15).

The PH22 scores can add to evaluate positive health or patient centered interventions. Prior to the actual use of the PH22 as a measuring tool in evaluative research, it is essential to explore its test-retest reliability and responsiveness for change. Further research has to explore this so that differences in scores can be correctly interpreted. Last, it should be emphasized that the PH22 is not meant for dialogue purposes.

Specifically, for that aim the MPH dialogue tool was developed; to guide the conversation about someone's Positive Health and reflect on someone's personalized (positive) health-related goals over time in his or her specific context.

## CONCLUSIONS

In this study a comprehensive methodological approach was applied using both content discussion and statistical output aiming to develop a content valid measurement tool for evaluative purposes in scientific or policy research at positive health or patient centered interventions assessing self-reported Positive Health. A relatively short questionnaire containing 22 items distributed over four dimensions, the PH22, was developed and cross-validated among a general (Dutch) population. This study supports its structural validity. To apply this questionnaire in evaluative research its test-retest reliability should be explored first, followed by responsiveness for change. Future research has to assess this.

## Additional material

Additional file (.pdf); A. Items of the My Positive Health dialogue tool (MPH), B. Factor loadings of model with 42 MPH items; PH42, C1-6. Interitem Correlations of factors PH42, D-E. Factor loadings with 30-item and 24 PH model (round 2 and 3).

## List of abbreviations

CA	Cronbach's alpha
CFA	Confirmatory factor analysis
CFI	Comparative fit index
COSMIN	Reporting Guideline
CPHQ	Context-sensitive Positive Health Questionnaire
PCA	Principal component analysis
FL	Factor loading
IIC	Inter-item correlation
IPH	Item number from the MPH dialogue tool
KMO	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin

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2			
3	416	LISS panel	Longitudinal Internet studies for the Social Sciences – panel
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5	417	METC	Medical ethical review board (Medisch ethische toetsingscommissie)
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7	418	ML	Maximum likelihood
8			
9	419	MPH	My Positive Health dialogue tool
10			
11	420	PH17	Positive Health measurement scale with 17 items
12			
13	421	PH22	Positive Health measurement scale with 22 items
14			
15	422	PH42	Positive Health measurement scale with 42 items
16			
17	423	PROM	Patient-reported outcome measures
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19	424	RMSEA	Root mean square error of approximation
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21	425	STMR	Standardized root mean square residual
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A. Items of the My Positive Health dialogue tool (MPH)

Item number of the dialogue tool	Item
BF1	I feel healthy
BF2	I feel fit
BF3	I have no physical complaints or pain
BF4	I sleep well
BF5	I eat well
BF6	I recover quickly after exercise, such as sports.
BF7	I find it easy to move, such as going up and down stairs, walking or cycling
MW8	I am good at remembering things
MW9	I am able to concentrate
MW10	I am able to see, hear, talk and read
MW11	I feel cheerful
MW12	I accept myself for who I am
MW13	I look for solutions to change difficult situations
MW14	I feel in control of my life
MF15	I have a meaningful life
MF16	In the mornings, I look forward to the day ahead
MF17	I have ideals that I would like to achieve
MF18	I feel confident about my own future
MF19	I accept life as it comes
MF20	I am grateful for what life offers me
MF21	I want to continue learning throughout my life
QL22	I enjoy my life
QL23	I am happy
QL24	I feel good
QL25	I feel my life is well-balanced
QL26	I feel safe
QL27	I am content with where and with whom I live
QL28	I have enough money to pay my bills
SP29	I am in good contact with other people
SP30	Other people take me seriously
SP31	I have people with whom I can do fun things with
SP32	I have people who support me when I need it
SP33	I feel that I 'belong' in my environment
SP34	I consider my job or other activities to be meaningful
SP35	I am interested in what happens in society
DF36	I am well capable of looking after myself, for example with regard to personal hygiene, getting dressed, shopping, cooking
DF37	I know my limitations
DF38	I know how I can look after my own health
DF39	I am well capable of planning my day
DF40	I am well capable of managing the money that I have each month
DF41	I am able to work in a job or do voluntary work
DF42	I know how to apply for benefits or getting assistance from official agencies when necessary

BF: bodily functions, MW: mental wellbeing, MF: meaningfulness, QL: quality of life, SP: social and societal participation, DF: daily functioning  
(<https://vragenlijsten.mijnpositievegezondheid.nl/adults-en>)

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B. Factor loadings of model with 42 MPH items; PH42 (n=1199)<sup>1</sup>

Item number of the My Positive Health dialogue tool (MPH) (Expressed as IPH)	Acceptance, meaningfulness and satisfaction with life	Physical health and functioning	Self-management	Social network and societal roles	Personal development	Cognition
IPH25 Feeling well-balanced	<b>0.751</b>	0.064	0.129	0.053	0.047	0.036
IPH24 Feeling good	<b>0.708</b>	0.235	-0.009	0.097	0.051	0.005
IPH23 Being happy	<b>0.699</b>	0.082	-0.004	0.260	0.034	-0.023
IPH22 Enjoyment	<b>0.676</b>	0.086	0.021	0.253	0.060	-0.013
IPH16 Being high-spirited	<b>0.673</b>	0.105	0.046	0.129	0.102	0.033
IPH11 Being cheerful	<b>0.653</b>	0.159	-0.040	0.154	0.089	0.102
IPH19 Accepting life	<b>0.645</b>	-0.039	0.165	0.048	0.135	0.087
IPH20 Being grateful	<b>0.624</b>	0.008	0.114	0.135	0.160	0.002
IPH15 Having a meaningful life	<b>0.573</b>	0.049	0.045	0.249	0.183	0.005
IPH12 Accepting yourself	<b>0.572</b>	0.037	0.206	0.054	0.043	0.145
IPH18 Feeling confident about own future	<b>0.558</b>	0.161	0.033	0.093	0.344	-0.019
IPH14 Having control	<b>0.534</b>	0.026	0.201	0.105	0.163	0.123
IPH26 Feeling safe	<b>0.393</b>	0.074	0.185	0.256	0.028	0.078
IPH7 Exercise	-0.107	<b>0.877</b>	0.061	0.049	0.109	-0.118
IPH6 Physical condition	0.069	<b>0.783</b>	0.046	0.021	0.048	-0.013
IPH2 Feeling fit	0.206	<b>0.781</b>	0.052	-0.039	-0.002	0.003
IPH1 Feeling healthy	0.195	<b>0.769</b>	0.027	-0.032	0.016	0.028
IPH41 Being able to work	-0.089	<b>0.526</b>	0.291	0.058	0.266	-0.223
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	-0.031	<b>0.450</b>	-0.097	0.062	-0.018	0.193
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.395	<b>0.422</b>	-0.061	0.022	-0.276	0.254
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.241	<b>0.364</b>	0.248	0.087	-0.250	0.197
IPH40 Managing money	0.147	-0.036	<b>0.828</b>	0.001	-0.069	-0.070
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.001	0.014	<b>0.754</b>	0.017	0.011	0.233
IPH38 Knowledge of health	-0.022	0.157	<b>0.651</b>	0.088	0.019	0.201
IPH39 Managing time	0.132	0.001	<b>0.634</b>	-0.062	0.073	0.238
IPH36 Looking after yourself	-0.171	0.290	<b>0.633</b>	0.052	0.092	0.065
IPH28 Having enough money	0.219	0.035	<b>0.598</b>	0.147	-0.121	-0.231
IPH42 Asking for help	0.065	-0.044	<b>0.452</b>	0.178	0.175	-0.154
IPH32 Having the support of others	-0.014	-0.013	-0.036	<b>0.939</b>	-0.038	0.015
IPH31 Doing fun things together	0.043	0.070	-0.070	<b>0.899</b>	-0.014	-0.043
IPH33 Belonging	0.099	-0.015	0.018	<b>0.864</b>	-0.070	-0.028
IPH30 Being taken seriously	-0.023	-0.021	0.047	<b>0.792</b>	0.081	0.092
IPH29 Social contacts	0.111	0.013	-0.038	<b>0.786</b>	0.013	0.051
IPH27 Living conditions	0.335	-0.044	0.224	<b>0.423</b>	-0.140	-0.017
IPH35 Being interested in society	0.011	-0.002	0.181	<b>0.418</b>	0.263	-0.011
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	0.228	0.212	0.103	<b>0.401</b>	0.181	-0.169
IPH21 Continue learning	0.182	0.118	0.020	0.002	<b>0.660</b>	0.017
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.310	0.161	-0.115	-0.008	<b>0.643</b>	0.051

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization. Pattern matrix, rotation converged in 14 iterations.

1. van Druten VP, Metz MJ, Mathijssen JJP, et al. Measuring positive health using the My Positive Health (MPH) and Individual Recovery Outcomes Counter (I.ROC) dialogue tools: a panel study on measurement properties in a representative general Dutch population. *Under Rev.* Published online 2024. doi:10.1101/2024.02.21.24301090

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1. Interitem Correlations of factor *Acceptation, meaningfulness and satisfaction with life* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH23 Being happy	IPH22 Enjoym ent	IPH25 Feeling well- balanced	IPH24 Feeling good	IPH16 Being high- spirited	IPH11 Being cheerful	IPH15 Having a meaningf ul life	IPH20 Being grateful	IPH18 Feeling confident about future	IPH19 Acceptin g life	IPH14 Having control	IPH12 Acceptin g yourself	IPH26 Feeling safe
IPH23 Being happy	1.000	0.893	0.811	0.844	0.784	0.815	0.769	0.756	0.746	0.664	0.699	0.652	0.646
IPH22 Enjoyment	0.893	1.000	0.804	0.842	0.793	0.822	0.785	0.769	0.747	0.678	0.705	0.669	0.658
IPH25 Feeling well-balanced	0.811	0.804	1.000	0.831	0.764	0.755	0.733	0.702	0.703	0.689	0.709	0.670	0.640
IPH24 Feeling good	0.844	0.842	0.831	1.000	0.784	0.827	0.726	0.682	0.704	0.657	0.680	0.687	0.648
IPH16 Being high-spirited	0.784	0.793	0.764	0.784	1.000	0.773	0.770	0.697	0.708	0.670	0.669	0.635	0.597
IPH11 Being cheerful	0.815	0.822	0.755	0.827	0.773	1.000	0.721	0.691	0.703	0.654	0.676	0.653	0.634
IPH15 Having a meaningful life	0.769	0.785	0.733	0.726	0.770	0.721	1.000	0.716	0.710	0.663	0.710	0.631	0.614
IPH20 Being grateful	0.756	0.769	0.702	0.682	0.697	0.691	0.716	1.000	0.722	0.709	0.653	0.647	0.613
IPH18 Feeling confident about own future	0.746	0.757	0.723	0.724	0.738	0.723	0.750	0.712	1.000	0.697	0.715	0.640	0.623
IPH19 Accepting life	0.664	0.678	0.689	0.657	0.670	0.654	0.663	0.709	0.667	1.000	0.664	0.667	0.596
IPH14 Having control	0.699	0.705	0.709	0.680	0.669	0.676	0.710	0.653	0.705	0.664	1.000	0.670	0.639
IPH12 Accepting yourself	0.652	0.669	0.670	0.687	0.635	0.653	0.631	0.647	0.640	0.667	0.670	1.000	0.574
IPH26 Feeling safe	0.646	0.658	0.640	0.648	0.597	0.634	0.614	0.613	0.613	0.596	0.639	0.574	1.000

**C2.** Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Physical health and functioning* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH2 Feeling fit	IPH7 Exercise	IPH1 Feeling healthy	IPH6 Physical condition	IPH41 Being able to work	IPH4 Sleeping pattern	IPH5 Eating pattern	IPH3 Having complaints or pain
IPH2 Feeling fit	1.000	0.704	0.845	0.735	0.490	0.488	0.516	0.361
IPH7 Exercise	0.704	1.000	0.682	0.735	0.548	0.395	0.435	0.312
IPH1 Feeling healthy	0.845	0.682	1.000	0.674	0.518	0.488	0.476	0.348
IPH6 Physical condition	0.735	0.735	0.674	1.000	0.477	0.462	0.537	0.313
IPH41 Being able to work	0.490	0.548	0.518	0.477	1.000	0.283	0.294	0.184
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.488	0.395	0.488	0.462	0.283	1.000	0.529	0.262
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.516	0.435	0.476	0.537	0.294	0.529	1.000	0.256
IPH3 Having complaints or pain	0.361	0.312	0.348	0.313	0.184	0.262	0.256	1.000

**C3.** Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Self-management* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH40 Managing money	IPH37 Knowing your limitations	IPH38 Knowledge of health	IPH36 Looking after yourself	IPH39 Managing time	IPH28 Having enough money	IPH42 Asking for help
IPH40 Managing money	1.000	0.569	0.570	0.503	0.554	0.690	0.443
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.569	1.000	0.779	0.656	0.628	0.403	0.393
IPH38 Knowledge of health	0.570	0.779	1.000	0.666	0.602	0.413	0.404
IPH36 Looking after yourself	0.503	0.656	0.666	1.000	0.501	0.359	0.305
IPH39 Managing time	0.554	0.628	0.602	0.501	1.000	0.388	0.417
IPH28 Having enough money	0.690	0.403	0.413	0.359	0.388	1.000	0.379
IPH42 Asking for help	0.443	0.393	0.404	0.305	0.417	0.379	1.000

C4. Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Social network and societal roles* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH31 Doing fun things together	IPH32 Having the support of others	IPH33 Belonging	IPH29 Social contacts	IPH30 Being taken seriously	IPH34 Doing meaningful things	IPH27 Living conditions	IPH35 Being interested in society
IPH31 Doing fun things together	1.000	0.822	0.774	0.734	0.694	0.598	0.538	0.492
IPH32 Having the support of others	0.822	1.000	0.779	0.695	0.678	0.557	0.582	0.467
IPH33 Belonging	0.774	0.779	1.000	0.743	0.711	0.621	0.569	0.523
IPH29 Social contacts	0.734	0.695	0.743	1.000	0.724	0.607	0.509	0.481
IPH30 Being taken seriously	0.694	0.678	0.711	0.724	1.000	0.561	0.533	0.540
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	0.598	0.557	0.621	0.607	0.561	1.000	0.485	0.521
IPH27 Living conditions	0.538	0.582	0.569	0.509	0.533	0.485	1.000	0.391
IPH35 Being interested in society	0.492	0.467	0.523	0.481	0.540	0.521	0.391	1.000

C5. Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Personal development* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH21 Continue learning	IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	IPH13 Being able to handle changes
IPH21 Continue learning	1.000	0.534	0.483
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.534	1.000	0.449
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	0.483	0.449	1.000

C6. Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Cognition* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH8 Being able to remember things	IPH9 Being able to concentrate	IPH10 Being able to communicate
IPH8 Being able to remember things	1.000	0.768	0.477
IPH9 Being able to concentrate	0.768	1.000	0.452
IPH10 Being able to communicate	0.477	0.452	1.000

1. van Druten VP, Metz MJ, Mathijssen JJP, et al. Measuring positive health using the My Positive Health (MPH) and Individual Recovery Outcomes Counter (I.ROC) dialogue tools: a panel study on measurement properties in a representative general Dutch population. *Under Rev.* Published online 2024. doi:10.1101/2024.02.21.24301090

**D. Factor loadings of 30-item PH model (round 2) (n=1199)**

	Factor <sup>1</sup>			
	Contentment with life	Daily life management	Physical fitness	Future perspective
IPH32 Having the support of others	<b>0.757</b>	0.116	-0.196	0.045
IPH20 Being grateful	<b>0.731</b>	-0.027	0.114	0.129
IPH29 Social contacts	<b>0.730</b>	0.097	-0.107	0.097
IPH19 Accepting life	<b>0.729</b>	-0.022	0.136	0.064
IPH16 Being high-spirited	<b>0.712</b>	-0.049	0.246	0.116
IPH27 Living conditions	<b>0.710</b>	0.168	-0.046	-0.157
IPH24 Feeling good	<b>0.692</b>	-0.087	0.344	0.106
IPH30 Being taken seriously	<b>0.674</b>	0.194	-0.183	0.122
IPH26 Feeling safe	<b>0.673</b>	0.100	0.103	0.002
IPH12 Accepting yourself	<b>0.666</b>	0.045	0.217	-0.011
IPH14 Having control	<b>0.629</b>	0.111	0.156	0.121
IPH18 Feeling confident about own future	<b>0.610</b>	-0.038	0.197	0.350
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	<b>0.472</b>	0.187	0.079	0.260
IPH35 Being interested in society	<b>0.399</b>	0.263	-0.139	0.256
IPH9 Being able to concentrate	<b>0.369</b>	0.218	0.268	0.041
IPH40 Managing money	0.154	<b>0.780</b>	-0.031	-0.158
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.067	<b>0.762</b>	0.073	-0.049
IPH36 Looking after yourself	-0.107	<b>0.750</b>	0.161	0.096
IPH39 Managing time	0.041	<b>0.693</b>	0.118	0.033
IPH28 Having enough money	0.345	<b>0.535</b>	-0.043	-0.178
IPH42 Asking for help	0.166	<b>0.502</b>	-0.174	0.174
IPH41 Being able to work	-0.161	<b>0.495</b>	0.257	0.388
IPH2 Feeling fit	0.106	0.161	<b>0.674</b>	0.155
IPH6 Physical condition	0.031	0.193	<b>0.648</b>	0.197
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.364	-0.071	<b>0.644</b>	-0.204
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.316	0.238	<b>0.511</b>	-0.222
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	-0.052	0.064	<b>0.485</b>	0.107
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.269	-0.083	0.152	<b>0.663</b>
IPH21 Continue learning	0.230	0.032	0.032	<b>0.640</b>
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	0.289	0.101	-0.016	<b>0.465</b>

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis; Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization; Pattern matrix, rotation converged in 16 iterations

<sup>1</sup> During the process of item reduction the names of the factors were Contentment with life, Self-management, Physical health and functioning, and Personal development. Afterwards these were renamed by the research team into Contentment with life, Daily life management, Physical fitness, and Future perspective.

E. Factor loadings of 24-item PH model (round 3) (n=1199)

	Factor <sup>1</sup>			
	Contentment with life	Physical fitness	Daily life management	Future perspective
IPH32 Having the support of others	<b>0.846</b>	-0.136	0.023	0.009
IPH29 Social contacts	<b>0.806</b>	-0.055	0.014	0.051
IPH27 Living conditions	<b>0.773</b>	-0.007	0.093	-0.157
IPH30 Being taken seriously	<b>0.735</b>	-0.126	0.101	0.105
IPH26 Feeling safe	<b>0.654</b>	0.125	0.079	0.041
IPH20 Being grateful	<b>0.653</b>	0.137	-0.015	0.196
IPH16 Being high-spirited	<b>0.625</b>	0.276	-0.032	0.165
IPH19 Accepting life	<b>0.618</b>	0.158	0.021	0.150
IPH14 Having control	<b>0.543</b>	0.158	0.136	0.200
IPH12 Accepting yourself	<b>0.543</b>	0.248	0.106	0.067
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	<b>0.531</b>	0.120	0.081	0.210
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.332	<b>0.695</b>	-0.084	-0.194
IPH2 Feeling fit	0.057	<b>0.687</b>	0.141	0.161
IPH6 Physical condition	-0.001	<b>0.677</b>	0.142	0.199
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.255	<b>0.567</b>	0.250	-0.182
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	-0.115	<b>0.519</b>	0.046	0.152
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.022	0.033	<b>0.855</b>	-0.057
IPH36 Looking after yourself	-0.088	0.117	<b>0.791</b>	0.030
IPH40 Managing money	0.106	-0.032	<b>0.775</b>	-0.082
IPH39 Managing time	-0.022	0.062	<b>0.772</b>	0.057
IPH42 Asking for help	0.208	-0.203	<b>0.474</b>	0.151
IPH21 Continue learning	0.090	0.020	0.044	<b>0.758</b>
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.140	0.148	-0.047	<b>0.701</b>
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	0.158	-0.024	0.118	<b>0.600</b>

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization. Pattern matrix, rotation converged in 7 iterations.

<sup>1</sup> During the process of item reduction the names of the factors were Contentment with life, Physical health and functioning, Self-management, and Personal development. Afterwards these were renamed by the research team into Contentment with life, Physical fitness, Daily life management, and Future perspective.

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# BMJ Open

## Development and cross-validation of a short questionnaire to evaluate self-reported Positive Health; A cross sectional panel study of structural validity among a general Dutch population

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**DEVELOPMENT AND CROSS-VALIDATION OF A SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE TO EVALUATE SELF-REPORTED  
POSITIVE HEALTH; A CROSS SECTIONAL PANEL STUDY OF STRUCTURAL VALIDITY AMONG A GENERAL DUTCH  
POPULATION**

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DECLARATIONS

**Ethical approval and consent to participate:** The study was conducted in accordance with current public regulations, laws, and the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki. Informed consent was given by each participant to be included as a LISS-panel member. For more information see: <https://www.lisspanel.nl/ethics>. The Medical Ethics Committee of Brabant (Tilburg, the Netherlands) reviewed this study and declared that the Medical Research Involving Human Subjects Act (WMO) did not apply to this study (study number NW2024-15).

**Consent for publication:** Not applicable

**Availability of data and materials:** The original dataset(s) supporting the conclusions of this article is(are) available from <https://www.lissdata.nl/access-data> upon request for researchers and policymakers.

**Competing interests:** MvV co-developed the MPH dialogue tool and works at the Institute for Positive Health. All other authors have no competing interest to declare.

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**Author contributions:** LNvV wrote the protocol and manuscript, and conducted the statistical analyses, and is guarantor. VvD contributed to the first part of the statistical analysis. BvdZ supervised the research, statistical analyses and the writing process. LNvV, BvdZ, MM and MvV participated at the research meetings concerning the item reduction process; content discussion and interpretation of the statistical output. MM and MvV contributed equally. All author’s reviewed and approved the final manuscript.

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1     **ABSTRACT**

2     **Objectives:** In this study it was aimed to further develop and cross-validate a short questionnaire to measure

3     self-reported Positive Health in general (Dutch) populations for evaluative purposes, stemming from the

4     original 42 items of the My Positive Health dialogue tool (MPH). Positive Health refers to ‘health from the

5     perspective of patients and citizens’ following the concept of Huber et. al. **Design and setting:** A cross sectional

6     study was performed among a panel representative for the general adult Dutch population living at home.

7     **Participants:** Response rate was 76%, 1327 of a total of 2457 respondents were female, and mean age (year)

8     was 53.3 ± 17.8. **Methods:** First, item reduction was carried out through content discussions following

9     statistical output retrieved from factor structures and loadings, inter-item correlations (IIC) and internal

10    consistency (Cronbach’s alphas). Next, among the other half of the study population, measurement properties

11    for the developed short questionnaire were calculated using goodness of fit indices from confirmatory factor

12    analyses (CFA). **Results:** The item reduction process (n=1199) resulted in a questionnaire of 22 items (PH22)

13    with a four-factor structure and explained variance of 62.4%. Cronbach’s alphas were 0.84, 0.92, 0.81, and 0.78

14    for the renamed factors ‘Physical fitness’ (5 items), ‘Contentment with self, others and life’ (9 items), ‘Daily life

15    management’ (5 items) and ‘Future perspective’ (3 items), respectively. Cross validation (n=1258) showed

16    adequate goodness of fit indices of the PH22, based on both first- and second-order CFA. The scores of the

17    PH22 were normally distributed. No floor or ceiling effects were present. **Conclusions:** A short 22 item

18    questionnaire to measure self-reported Positive Health in a general (Dutch) population for evaluative purposes

19    such as scientific or policy research at Positive Health or patient-centered interventions was developed and

20    cross-validated, named PH22. This study supports its structural validity. To use this questionnaire in practice its

21    test-retest reliability and responsiveness should be known also. Future research has to reveal this.

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23    **Strengths and limitations of this study**

24        •    The study is robust in terms of its large sample size, high response rate and representativeness of the

25            general Dutch population.

26        •    The short Positive Health questionnaire was founded on the original items of the My Positive Health

27            dialogue tool, which is based on health indicators retrieved from a large study among various

28            stakeholders.

- The selection of items for the short Positive Health questionnaire was based on cyclical statistical analyses combined with thorough content discussions.
- The results of the content discussions were thematized and each step of the item reduction process thoroughly reported.
- The final short Positive Health questionnaire might have been more support-based if more representatives were included in the content discussions, i.e., if also focus groups were organized. .

## Key words

Positive Health; patient-centered care; patient reported outcome measures; structural validity; factor analyses

## INTRODUCTION

Since the concept of Positive Health was introduced in the Netherlands, a mind shift unrolled among healthcare workers and beyond. The approach of health as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being as formulated in the constitution of the World Health Organization<sup>1</sup> changed to a more dynamic approach of health focusing on self-management and the ability to adapt to physical, mental and social challenges during life<sup>2</sup>. This new vision on health is being integrated among all kinds of domains and political agendas within the Netherlands and abroad<sup>3</sup>.

To support the applicability of this vision on health in daily healthcare practice, the dialogue tool My Positive Health (MPH)<sup>4</sup> was developed. The content of this dialogue tool was derived from a large mixed methods study with interviews into the perceptions about health among different stakeholder groups such as patients, citizens, and healthcare professionals<sup>5</sup>. This inductive, bottom- up approach enabled the researchers to gain a thorough insight into the perceptions about health. From these perceptions 32 aspects emerged, representing indicators for (positive) health<sup>5</sup>. Accordingly, these aspects were thematized among six dimensions named: bodily functions, mental functions and perception, spiritual existential dimension, quality of life, social and societal participation and daily functioning. This operationalization of health was called *Positive Health*, and from here the 42-item MPH dialogue tool was developed. This MPH tool aims to support the conversation about Positive Health between patient and care worker and stimulate self-reflection<sup>4</sup>.

At an individual, organizational, community, regional and national level, the concept (broad and dynamic vision on health) and method (MPH tool and dialogue) are increasingly integrated. The Dutch government considers Positive Health a promising approach to promoting well-being and handle the increasing

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3 58 burden of disease<sup>6</sup>. To assess the effectiveness of working with this Positive Health approach, the need for an  
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5 59 instrument to measure self-reported Positive Health has been arising<sup>7,8</sup>. Although the MPH is a relevant  
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7 60 dialogue tool for the conversation about health<sup>3</sup>, it should be emphasized that the MPH is not obviously useful  
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9 61 for measuring purposes; the item grouping among the six dimensions of the MPH tool was not the result of a  
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11 62 study aiming to assess structural validity in order to develop an outcome measure instrument.

13 63 To our knowledge, two instruments were developed for this measuring purpose; the Positive Health  
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15 64 measurement scale with 17 items (PH17)<sup>9,10</sup> and the Positive Health measurement tool using all 42 dialogue  
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17 65 items (PH42)<sup>11</sup>. These two instruments face some limitations. Although measurement properties for the PH17  
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19 66 seemed adequate<sup>10</sup>, the initial item selection of the PH17 took place among citizens in just one part of the  
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21 67 Netherlands and response rate was low (25%)<sup>9</sup>, questioning the generalizability of their results. Even more  
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23 68 important, the methodological approach for item reduction included judgement of factor loadings, but  
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25 69 without, simultaneously, content discussion and judgement of inter-item correlations and maintaining  
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27 70 acceptable internal consistencies as recommended by others<sup>12</sup>. Without these steps relevant items might be  
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29 71 deleted, and shortchange its content and discriminant validity. The other instrument, the PH42, was developed  
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31 72 among a representative general population<sup>11</sup>, but consists of 42 items which might not be preferable for all  
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33 73 practices. From practical and methodological perspectives, it is preferable to use a shorter questionnaire,  
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35 74 which requires less effort and results in higher response rates, especially important during repeated  
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37 75 measurements needed to evaluate (positive) health or patient-centred interventions.

39 76 The aim of this study was to develop a short and valid questionnaire to measure self-reported Positive  
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41 77 Health in general populations. This questionnaire is meant for evaluation purposes among groups to assess the  
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43 78 effectiveness of working with the person-centered Positive Health approach. For example, scientific or policy  
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45 79 research. at Positive Health promoting, or patient-centered interventions. The conditions set for the short  
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47 80 questionnaire were that the questionnaire had to contain the original items of the MPH dialogue tool to retain  
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49 81 its recognizability with daily practice and with Positive Health as operationalised by Huber et. al.<sup>5</sup>, referring to  
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51 82 'health from the perspective of patients and citizens'. To optimize its content and discriminative validity the  
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53 83 more extensive method for item reduction using statistical output combined with content discussions was  
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55 84 applied among a representative study population. Finally, its structural validity was investigated.

56 85  
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58 86 **METHODS**

## 87 *Study design and participants*

88 In this paper, we make use of data from the LISS panel (Longitudinal Internet studies for the Social Sciences)  
89 managed by the non-profit research institute Centerdata (Tilburg University, the Netherlands). The LISS panel  
90 consists of a representative sample of approximately 7,000 individuals from 5,000 households from the general  
91 Dutch population. The panel is based on a true probability sample of households drawn from the population  
92 register by Statistics Netherlands<sup>13</sup>. LISS panel members complete monthly online questionnaires and are paid  
93 for each completed questionnaire. To become a LISS panel member, at least one person in the household has  
94 to be proficient in the Dutch language. To minimize selection bias, households were provided with a computer  
95 and internet connection if they could otherwise not participate. Response rates for this panel are high (>80%).  
96 More information about the LISS panel can be found at: [www.lissdata.nl](http://www.lissdata.nl)<sup>14</sup>.

97  
98 To answer our research question a cross sectional study was performed among a random selection of members  
99 from the LISS panel. From this panel, 2,500 adults ( $\geq 18$  years), one per household, were randomly selected to  
100 participate. The process of item reduction and cross-validation were carried out in two randomly split samples  
101 of this study population. Ethical review was conducted by the METC Brabant (Tilburg, the Netherlands, study  
102 number NW2024-15).

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104 This study was reported according to the COSMIN Reporting Guideline<sup>15</sup> recommended for studies that  
105 evaluate the measurement properties of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs), and the STROBE  
106 statement for cross-sectional studies<sup>16</sup>. The terms dimension and factor are used interchangeably.

## 107 108 *Data collection and administration*

109 During November 2020 the selected study population was asked to complete the original 42 items of the My  
110 Positive Health questionnaire (MPH) (see Supplemental A) receiving one reminder after 2 weeks. The same as  
111 the original MPH dialogue tool the items were introduced per dimension using the original introduction,  
112 answer options and icons of the dialogue tool<sup>4</sup>. In contrast to the original tool the respondents did not see their  
113 results among a spiderweb. Respondents completed the electronic questionnaire at home using the regular  
114 internet platform of LISS receiving a private link. Characteristics of the study population such as gender, age,

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3 115 level of education and health care use were available from the regular LISS panel HEALTH survey  
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5 116 (<https://www.lissdata.nl/research/liss-core-study>)<sup>14</sup>.  
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9 118 *My Positive Health (MPH) dialogue tool*  
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11 119 The MPH consists of 42 statements about Positive Health, representing the 32 indicators for (positive) health  
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13 120 as assessed by Huber et al.<sup>5</sup>. For practical use, they were formulated to a simple language level (B1). The  
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15 121 statements are scored on an 11-point Likert scale ranging from 0 ‘completely disagree’ to 10 ‘completely  
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17 122 agree’. Higher scores indicate better health. Also, the six dimensions (bodily functions, mental functions and  
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19 123 perception, spiritual existential dimension, quality of life, social and societal participation and daily functioning)  
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21 124 are visualised in a spider web with six axes, representing the dimensions and ranging from value 0 (in the  
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23 125 centre for poor) to 10 (on the periphery, for excellent). The self-reported MPH questionnaire takes 10-20  
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25 126 minutes to complete. Over the last years it was shown by various users (citizens, patients and professionals)  
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27 127 that the MPH was a relevant dialogue tool including comprehensiveness and comprehensibility of the items,  
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29 128 response options, and instructions<sup>3</sup>.  
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33 130 *Preconditions for the short Positive Health questionnaire to be developed*  
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35 131 Preconditions formulated by the research team for an useful self-reported questionnaire to measure Positive  
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37 132 Health were; 1) a multidimensional structure was held to ensure a broad representation of health conform  
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39 133 literature<sup>5,17</sup>, 2) items were not reformulated to keep recognizability with the specific Positive Health dialogue  
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41 134 approach according to MPH<sup>4</sup>, 3) to hold model stability each dimension contained at least three items <sup>12</sup>, and 4)  
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43 135 the short questionnaire contained a maximum of about 20 items to be user-friendly.  
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47 137 *Statistical analyses*  
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49 138 Development: Process of item reduction  
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51 139 Prior to this study, Van Druten et al. developed the measurement tool PH42 <sup>11</sup>. They assessed the factor  
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53 140 structure of the 42 original items of the dialogue tool MPH. This resulted in a model with a six-factor structure  
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55 141 including all 42 items with an explained variance of 68%, no inter-items correlations > 0.9, factor loadings  
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57 142 ranging from 0.36 to 0.94, Cronbach’s alpha’s ranging from 0.74 up to 0.97, and acceptable fit indices . This  
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59 143 study of Van Druten et al. was based on the same dataset as our study. Their results (see Supplemental B and  
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C) were the starting point for the item reduction process of our study. We used the same settings to assess dimensionality during the process of item reduction: extraction method; Principal Component Analysis (PCA)<sup>18-20</sup>, rotation method; Oblimin with Kaiser Normalisation, and eigen value >1.0 using SPSS V27.0. Analyses were performed on similar randomly split half of the study population (n=1199).

The following steps of the item reduction process were taken conform the methodology published by De Vet and Terwee<sup>12,15</sup>. Content discussions initiated through statistical output were performed in different rounds with experts taking part in the research team. First, the items of the PH42 were assessed per factor on low (<0.2; i.e. possibly unrelated to the construct) and high (>0.7; i.e. possibly overlapping and thus redundant in the construct) inter-item correlations<sup>12</sup>. Based on content discussion low or highly correlated items were held or removed. Then, PCA was performed. Items that hardly loaded at all on any of the factors were considered for deletion. A minimum factor loading of 0.5 was taken as threshold<sup>12</sup>. Also, items loading >0.32<sup>12,21</sup> on more than one factor were discussed. Based on content discussion, items were held or removed. Content was leading, meaning that for some items, high correlations or low factor loadings might be accepted. Items were deleted one by one repeating PCA every step, because deletion of one item might change structures or loadings of other items<sup>12</sup>. Final decisions to delete an item were combined with judgement of consequences for internal consistencies (Cronbach's alpha) aimed between 0.7-0.9<sup>12</sup>.

### Cross validation

To assess goodness of fit of the developed short Positive Health questionnaire, confirmatory factor analyses (CFA) was performed in the second half of the study population (n=1258) CFA for normal continuous data with maximum likelihood (ML) as estimation method was used (R Lavaan 0.6.14)<sup>22</sup>. Goodness of fit indices included; chi-square ( $X^2$ ) (a non-significant  $X^2$  is desirable, however in a large sample, the  $X^2$  is usually significant), comparative fit index (CFI), root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR). Indicators of model fit were<sup>12,23</sup>; CFI values between 0.90 and 0.95 with >0.95 indicating superior model fit, RMSEA values <0.05 represent good fit, 0.05-0.08 acceptable fit, >0.08 medium fit and >0.1 poor fit, and SRMR value of <0.08 representing good fit. To assess if the item scores of the questionnaire fit the factor sum scores first-order CFA was executed. To investigate if the factor sum scores fit the total sum score of the questionnaire as well, second-order CFA was executed<sup>12,22</sup>.

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Scores of the developed questionnaire

Last, the distribution of the total and factor sum scores of the developed questionnaire were described; mean, median, standard deviation, minimum, maximum, skewness and kurtosis (< -1 and > 1), and floor and ceiling effects ( $\geq 15\%$  of the respondents scores lowest or highest possible scores, respectively<sup>24</sup>).

*Sample size calculation*

Size of both randomly split subgroups (n=1199, n=1259)<sup>11</sup> was adequate to apply PCA and CFA; rule of thumb is that four to ten respondents per item of the questionnaire are included, with a minimum of 100 <sup>25</sup>.

*Patient and public involvement*

Patients or the public were not involved in the design, or conduct, or reporting, or dissemination plans of our research.

**RESULTS**

*Participants*

The response rate was 76% with 777 respondents not responding. Twelve respondents not completing the questionnaire completely were excluded, leaving 2457 respondents for the analyses; 54% female, mean age (years)  $53.3 \pm 17.8$ , 39.9% high level of education, and 39.8% visited a medical specialist at the hospital, psychiatrist, psychologist or psychotherapist last 12 months. Next, the study population was randomly split: n=1199 and n=1258, in which the process of item reduction and cross-validation was carried out, respectively.

*Development: Process of item reduction*

LNvV, BvdZ, MM and MvV participated at six research meetings of an hour between May and August 2023 concerning the item reduction process; content discussion and interpretation of the statistical output. During **round 1** interitem correlations were explored for the six-factor structure of the PH42 (see Supplemental C ; . From all factors four contained half or more items that were too highly (>0.7) correlated to another item: Factor 1 (11 out of 13), factor 2 (4/8), factor 3 (2/7), factor 4 (5/8), factor 5 (0/3) and factor 6 (2/3), respectively. Two of all items correlated low (<0.2) with each other but adequately with the other items; factor 2 (2/8). First, the items with interitem correlations >0.8 were discussed on their content, next those items with

correlations >0.7. Initiated by these high correlations content discussion led to choices for deletion of an item for various reasons such as inadequate formulation of the statement, not being inclusive or (not) being specific. In Table 1 detailed information about the choices made per item are shown.

**Table 1.** Process of item reduction with the PH42 questionnaire as starting point

		Round 1			Round 2			Round 3			Round 5			Final Items PH22 (✓) Or round deleted (R)
		IIC	Item deleted	Content <sup>1,2</sup>	FL	Item deleted	Content <sup>1,2</sup>	FL	Item deleted	Content <sup>1,2</sup>	IIC, CA	Item deleted	Content <sup>1,2</sup>	
Acceptance, meaningfulness and satisfaction with life														
IPH25	Feeling well-balanced	>0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH24	Feeling good	>0.8	●	F	Loads double	●	C,D							R2
IPH23	Being happy	>0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH22	Enjoyment	>0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH16	Being high-spirited	0.7-0.8	●	F										✓
IPH11	Being cheerful	0.7-0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH19	Accepting life	0.7-0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	F	✓
IPH20	IPH20 Being grateful	0.7-0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	A,C	R4
IPH15	Having a meaningful life	0.7-0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH12	Accepting yourself													✓
IPH18	Feeling confident about own future	0.7-0.8	●	F	Loads double	●	B							R2
IPH14	Having control	0.7-0.8	●	F										✓
IPH26	Feeling safe													✓
Physical health and functioning														
IPH7	Exercise	0.7-0.8	●	C										R1
IPH6	Physical condition	0.7-0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	F	✓
IPH2	Feeling fit	>0.8	●	F							0.7-0.8	●	F	✓
IPH1	Feeling healthy	>0.8	●	A,D										R1
IPH41	Being able to work				FL<0.5, Loads double	●	A							R2
IPH3	Having physical complaints or pain				FL<0.5	●	F							✓
IPH4	Sleeping pattern				Loads double	●	F	Loads double	●	F				✓
IPH5	Eating pattern													✓
Self-management														
IPH40	Managing money													✓
IPH37	Knowing your limitations	0.7-0.8	●	F										✓
IPH38	Knowledge of health	0.7-0.8	●	E										R1
IPH39	Managing time													✓
IPH36	Looking after yourself													✓

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IPH28	Having enough money			Loads double	● A, B				R2
IPH42	Asking for help					FL<0.5	● F		✓
Social network and societal roles									
IPH32	Having the support of others	>0.8	●	F					✓
IPH31	Doing fun things together	>0.8	●	A					R1
IPH33	Belonging	0.7-0.8	●	A					R1
IPH30	Being taken seriously	0.7-0.8	●	F			0.7-0.8	● A,D	R4
IPH29	Social contacts	0.7-0.8	●	F			0.7-0.8	● F	✓
IPH27	Living conditions								✓
IPH35	Being interested in society				FL<0.5	●	D		R2
IPH34	Doing meaningful things								✓
Personal development									
IPH21	Continue learning								✓
IPH17	Wanting to achieve ideals								✓
IPH13	Being able to handle changes				FL<0.5	●	F		✓
Cognition									
IPH8	Being able to remember things	0.7-0.8	●	A					R1
IPH9	Being able to concentrate	0.7-0.8	●	F	FL<0.5	●	B		R2
IPH10	Being able to communicate		●	E					R1

IPH; Item number of the original MyPositiveHealth dialogue tool (See Suppl.1)  
<sup>1</sup>Results content discussion expressed as A-F <sup>2</sup> to delete or hold an item supported by the measurement properties: ICC; interitem correlations, FL; factor loadings, CA; Cronbach's alphas extracted during exploratory factor analyses.  
<sup>2</sup>A to F; A Content is sufficiently reflected in other questions, B Content does not sufficiently match the factor, C Question/Wording not inclusive, D Wording not specific enough, too broad, E Unclear wording, may not be properly understood, F Retained for specific content.

For the factor 'Cognition' the content discussion resulted in that only one item was retained. It was accepted by the research team that this factor would not continue to exist as dimension of Positive Health. In total, in round 1 12 out of 42 items, originating from each of the six factors, were deleted. For the remaining items (n=30) PCA was applied.

At round 2 PCA with 30 items resulted in a four-factor structure with explained variance of 60.7% (see Supplemental D for factor loadings). Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) and Bartlett's test was statistically significant (0.96; p ≤.001). Factor loadings ranged from 0.369 to 0.780. A new factor with 15 items arose from the former factor 'Acceptance, meaningfulness and satisfaction with life' and the factor 'Social network and societal roles' of the PH42. Based on the content of these items this new combined factor was renamed by the research team and further called 'Contentment with life' (15 items). The other factors were comparable to round 1 (i.e., to the PH42 model), except that the factor Cognition was no longer part of the model. Also, one item; IPH41 about 'being able to work', loaded highest, but low (0.495), on the factor 'Self-management' instead of the factor 'Physical health and functioning'. The item about concentration (IPH9), kept from the former factor Cognition, loaded highest, but low (0.369), on the new factor 'Contentment with life'. Five items had a factor loading (FL) <0.5, and five items loaded also high on another factor (FL>0.32). Of these items, three items were retained based on the content discussion (See Table 1). For example; the items about sleeping pattern (IPH4) and having no pain or complaints (IPH3), both part of the factor 'Physical health and functioning', were judged to be

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specific content that should be held for the measurement tool. For similar reasons item IPH13 (being able to handle changes) was kept. In total, in **round 2** 6 out of 30 items were deleted. In addition, the items selected to delete during round 2 were ranked by the expert team to process the order of item reduction in subsequent PCA. First those items with low factor loadings  $<0.5$  were deleted from the model (in following order; IPH9, IPH35, IPH41). Next those items with also a high factor loading ( $> 0.32$ ) on another factor were deleted (IPH18, IPH28, IPH24). PCA was executed and checked per deleted item. No changing structures were seen.

In **round 3**, PCA with 24 items resulted in a similar four-factor structure as round 2 with explained variance of 62.4% (see Supplemental E for factor loadings). KMO and Bartlett's test was statistically significant (0.96;  $p \leq 0.001$ ). Factor loadings ranged from 0.474 to 0.855. Overall, there was 1 item with a low factor loading ( $<0.5$ ), and 1 item with factor loadings  $>0.32$  on more than one factor. It concerned the item about sleeping pattern (IPH4), similar to the results of round 2, and the item about asking for help from official institutes (IPH42). Both items were retained because of its specific and relevant content. In this round no items were deleted.

At **round 4** interitem correlations and Cronbach's alpha (CA) were judged for this four-factor structure with 24 items. For the factor 'Contentment with life' 4/11 items were highly correlated ( $>0.7$  but  $<0.8$ ) and CA was high (0.94). Two additional items were deleted from this factor. There was some doubt about the content of item IPH26 (feeling safe) and its fit among the factor Contentment with life. It was decided to retain this item because it was the only item about this specific subject and considered to be an important aspect of Positive Health. For the factor 'Physical health and functioning' two items were highly correlated, but both were kept because of its specific content and good CA of the factor ( $n=5$ ,  $CA=0.78$ ). No high interitem correlations nor CA were present among the other factors Self-management ( $n=5$ ,  $CA=0.81$ ) and Personal development ( $n=3$ ,  $CA=0.74$ ). In total, in **round 4**, 2 out of 24 items were deleted. For the remaining items ( $n=22$ ) PCA was applied again.

At **round 5**, PCA with 22 items showed similar four-factor structure with explained variance of 62.4% (see Table 2 for factor loadings and Table 3A-D for Interitem correlations). KMO and Bartlett's test was statistically significant (0.95;  $p \leq 0.001$ ). The factor Self-management contained the only item with low FL (0.476). Based on the statistical output and its content no further items were deleted.

**Table 2.** Factor loadings of PH model of 22 items (round 5) ( $n=1199$ )

	Factor <sup>1</sup>			
	Contentment with life	Physical fitness	Daily life management	Future perspective
IPH32 Having the support of others	<b>0.800</b>	-0.139	0.042	0.057
IPH27 Living conditions	<b>0.785</b>	-0.049	0.098	-0.124
IPH29 Social contacts	<b>0.753</b>	-0.047	0.032	0.096
IPH26 Feeling safe	<b>0.669</b>	0.088	0.083	0.063
IPH16 Being high-spirited	<b>0.648</b>	0.236	-0.028	0.181
IPH19 Accepting life	<b>0.630</b>	0.114	0.037	0.162
IPH14 Having control	<b>0.566</b>	0.124	0.134	0.216
IPH12 Accepting yourself	<b>0.566</b>	0.209	0.113	0.076
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	<b>0.538</b>	0.106	0.074	0.237
IPH2 Feeling fit	0.079	<b>0.689</b>	0.134	0.153
IPH6 Physical condition	0.019	<b>0.686</b>	0.132	0.191
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.385	<b>0.667</b>	-0.101	-0.193
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	-0.145	<b>0.560</b>	0.052	0.153
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.295	<b>0.545</b>	0.240	-0.184
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.033	0.026	<b>0.855</b>	-0.062
IPH36 Looking after yourself	-0.087	0.123	<b>0.793</b>	0.021
IPH40 Managing money	0.101	-0.036	<b>0.781</b>	-0.081
IPH39 Managing time	-0.018	0.067	<b>0.768</b>	0.054
IPH42 Asking for help	0.190	-0.198	<b>0.476</b>	0.169
IPH21 Continue learning	0.060	0.040	0.053	<b>0.760</b>
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.153	0.147	-0.061	<b>0.705</b>
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	0.171	-0.018	0.094	<b>0.610</b>

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization. Pattern matrix. rotation converged in 8 iterations

<sup>1</sup> During the process of item reduction the names of the factors were Contentment with life, , Physical health and functioning, Self-management and Personal development. Afterwards these were renamed by the research team into Contentment with self, others and life, Physical fitness, Daily life management, and Future perspective.

**Table 3A.** Interitem correlation matrix of factor *Contentment with life*<sup>1</sup> of the 22 item PH model (n=1199)

	IPH12	IPH14	IPH16	IPH19	IPH26	IPH27	IPH29	IPH32	IPH34
IPH12 Accepting yourself	1.000	0.670	0.635	0.667	0.574	0.479	0.517	0.485	0.527
IPH14 Having control	0.670	1.000	0.669	0.664	0.639	0.545	0.591	0.516	0.583
IPH16 Being high-spirited	0.635	0.669	1.000	0.670	0.597	0.558	0.590	0.548	0.628
IPH19 Accepting life	0.667	0.664	0.670	1.000	0.596	0.492	0.512	0.506	0.524
IPH26 Feeling safe	0.574	0.639	0.597	0.596	1.000	0.605	0.523	0.552	0.521
IPH27 Living conditions	0.479	0.545	0.558	0.492	0.605	1.000	0.509	0.582	0.485
IPH29 Social contacts	0.517	0.591	0.590	0.512	0.523	0.509	1.000	0.695	0.607
IPH32 Having support of others	0.485	0.516	0.548	0.506	0.552	0.582	0.695	1.000	0.557
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	0.527	0.583	0.628	0.524	0.521	0.485	0.607	0.557	1.000

**Table 3B.** Interitem correlation matrix of factor *Physical fitness*<sup>1</sup> of the 22 item PH model (n=1199)

	IPH2	IPH3	IPH4	IPH5	IPH6
IPH2 Feeling fit	1.000	0.361	0.488	0.516	<b>0.735</b>
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	0.361	1.000	0.262	0.256	0.313
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.488	0.262	1.000	0.529	0.462
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.516	0.256	0.529	1.000	0.537
IPH6 Physical condition	<b>0.735</b>	0.313	0.462	0.537	1.000

**Table 3C.** Interitem correlation matrix of factor *Daily life management*<sup>1</sup> of the 22 item PH model (n=1199)

	IPH36	IPH37	IPH39	IPH40	IPH42
IPH36 Looking after yourself	1.000	0.656	0.501	0.503	0.305
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.656	1.000	0.628	0.569	0.393

IPH39	Managing time	0.501	0.628	1.000	0.554	0.417
IPH40	Managing money	0.503	0.569	0.554	1.000	0.443
IPH42	Asking for help	0.305	0.393	0.417	0.443	1.000

**Table 3D.** Interitem correlation matrix of factor *Future perspective*<sup>1</sup> of the 22 item PH model (n=1199)

	IPH13	IPH17	IPH21
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	1.000	0.449	0.483
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.449	1.000	0.534
IPH21 Continue learning	0.483	0.534	1.000

<sup>1</sup> During the process of item reduction the names of the factors were Contentment with life, , Physical health and functioning, Self-management and Personal development. Afterwards these were renamed by the research team into Contentment with self, others and life, Physical fitness, Daily life management, and Future perspective.

In summary, through the 5 rounds of item reduction evaluation and discussions, 20 out of 42 items were deleted resulting in a short self-reported questionnaire to measure Positive Health consisting of four dimensions and 22 items, hereafter called the PH22. The dimensions were renamed by the research team into 1) Physical fitness, 2) Contentment with self, others and life, 3) Daily life management, and 4) Future perspective (see Supplemental F).

It was accepted for the PH22 in favour of keeping specific content that; 1) the factor 'Contentment with life' had high CA (0.92), 2) the factor 'Physical fitness' contained two highly correlated items but with an adequate CA of 0.78, and 3) the factor 'Daily life management' contained an item with low FL (also an adequate CA of 0.81).

#### *Cross-validation*

The four-factor structure of the PH22 had an acceptable fit in first and second order CFA; 1) significant  $\chi^2$  ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), CFI of 0.902, RMSEA of 0.079 with a 90% confidence interval of 0.076 to 0.082, and SMSR of 0.047, and 2) significant  $\chi^2$  ( $p \leq 0.001$ ), CFI of 0.901, RMSEA of 0.079 with a 90% confidence interval of 0.075 to 0.0782, and SMSR of 0.047, respectively.

#### *Scores of the developed short Positive Health questionnaire*

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The scores of the PH22 were interpreted normally distributed but with slightly more outliers for the lower scores and higher frequency of scores around the mean, which was especially seen for the scores of the factor ‘Daily life management’. No floor or ceiling effects were present (see Table 4).

**Table 4.** Descriptive statistics of the PH22 scores (n=1258)

		Contentment with life	Physical fitness	Daily life management	Future perspective	Total score PH22
		9 items (score range 0-90)	5 items (score range 0-50)	5 items (score range 0-50)	3 items (score range 0-30)	22 items (score range 0-220)
Mean		69.72	34.91	41.36	21.68	167.67
Median		72	36	42	22	171
SD		12.916	8.265	6.275	4.906	27.612
Skewness		-0.909	-0.526	-0.93	-0.718	-0.733
Kurtosis		0.933	0.225	1.118	0.463	0.623
Minimum		17	5	14	3	59
Maximum		90	50	50	30	220
P15		56	26	35	17	139
P85		82	44	48	27	195

**DISCUSSION**

In this study a relatively short questionnaire to measure self-reported Positive Health was composed and cross-validated among a general (Dutch) population. The questionnaire contains 22 items stemming from the original My Positive Health (MPH) dialogue tool with 42 items. Structural validity and internal consistency were satisfactory, supporting the use of this questionnaire for evaluative purposes in scientific or policy research. This questionnaire is called the PH22.

The different methodological approaches of item reduction for the PH17<sup>9</sup> and PH22 resulted in a different set of items and measurement properties. Contrary to the development of the PH17, during the development of the PH22, the approach by De Vet et al.<sup>12</sup> was used for item reduction, which includes content discussion and judgement of internal consistency next to highest factor loadings. First, these steps are considered essential to the item reduction process to avoid withdrawing relevant items. Second, retaining items with the highest factor loadings per factor without the other steps can lead to overlap, i.e. the answer to one question predicts the answer to the second, thus providing information as if it were merely one item. Overall, the approach by De Vet et al.<sup>12</sup> most likely improves a questionnaire’s discriminative ability, which means that a tool is better able to generate different scores for populations with different levels of Positive Health. This is considered an essential condition for a measurement instrument, particularly for instruments

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aiming to evaluate interventions or follow cohorts. The too high internal consistency found for at least parts of the PH17 dimensions might be a consequence of this. Looking at the PH17, internal inconsistency was high for almost all dimensions, especially related to the low number of items per factor (2-3 items; Cronbach's alpha (CA); 0.90, 0.89, 0.77, 0.93, 0.89, 0.84). More items result in higher CA by definition. For the PH22, the dimension 'Contentment with life' also had too high internal consistency (CA=0.92), but the factor also consisted of nine items, what might (partly) explain the high CA. The other dimensions of the PH22 showed good internal consistency, with CA ranging from 0.74 to 0.81. Finally, both PH17<sup>9</sup> and PH22 development started with the 42 items of the MPH dialogue, but the different methodological approaches resulted in other sets of items; only eight items corresponded. When comparing the PH22 to the PH42<sup>11</sup>, its internal consistency and user-friendliness improved because of fewer items, at the expense of only a bit less explained variance (62% and 68%, respectively).

We presumed the 42 items of the MPH to be a content-valid basis to compose a measurement instrument, reflecting 'health from the perspective of patients and citizens' as assessed by Huber et al<sup>5</sup>. The items of the MPH tool were formulated based on health indicators emerged from a large concept elicitation interview study among various stakeholders including patients and citizens<sup>5</sup>, generating a solid basis for its content. In the meantime, studies showed that scores from the PH17 and PH42 correlated with constructs like quality of life, resilience and recovery<sup>10,11,26</sup> and with level of education and healthcare use<sup>26</sup>. Moreover, the MPH was shown by various users as a relevant and comprehensible dialogue tool<sup>3</sup>. We followed an inductive approach towards the development of the PH22. Thereby, four dimensions emerged which we named; 'Physical fitness', 'Contentment with self, others and life', 'Daily life management' and 'Future perspective' aligning with the core elements of the dynamic concept of (positive) health by Huber et al.<sup>2,5</sup>.

During the development of the dynamic concept by Huber et al.<sup>2</sup> and during its elaboration into Positive Health<sup>5</sup>, a deliberate choice was made to strive for an open concept instead of a more demarcated definition. Nevertheless, when creating a measurement instrument, it is important to establish a clear construct<sup>27</sup>. It should be noted that no widely agreed construct for Positive Health exists so far<sup>27,28</sup>. As described above, in this study we chose the construct for the measurement tool to reflect the original concept of health by Huber et al.<sup>2</sup> 'Health as the ability to adapt and to self-manage, in the face of social, physical and emotional challenges'. This concept closely fits a recently proposed description of positive health: 'reserve in capacities'<sup>28</sup>. Recently, another Dutch research group published the 32-item Context-sensitive Positive Health

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3 358 Questionnaire (CPHQ)<sup>29</sup>. This measurement tool aligns the concept of Positive Health with the ‘Capability  
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5 359 Approach’<sup>30</sup>. Accordingly, they formulated the following construct definition for their measurement tool: “The  
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7 360 extent to which one is capable to adapt and to thrive given one’s physical, mental, social and contextual  
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9 361 opportunities”. As a result, the CPHQ included more context-related items than the PH22, such as items about  
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11 362 feeling disadvantaged because of sexuality or cultural background or feeling represented by politics.  
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13 363 Nevertheless, the PH22 and CPHQ also overlap, both including capabilities and functionings (beings and  
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15 364 doings). For the methodological process of item reduction towards the 32 item CPHQ, similar as were for the  
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17 365 PH17, the three items with highest factor loadings (>0.4 without cross-loadings) were leading, possibly  
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19 366 hampering its discriminant validity. Last, contrary to the CPHQ, the PH22 consists only of original items from  
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21 367 the MPH to keep recognizability with the Positive Health approach in practice. As ‘Positive Health’ is a novice  
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23 368 approach, the discussion as to which construct or theoretical framework approximates best should continue.  
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25 369 Moreover, Van Druten et al.<sup>17</sup> pointed out that conceptualization of health is person- and context-dependent,  
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27 370 which necessitates the existence of various constructs. Therefore, different definitions and theoretical  
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29 371 frameworks, such as Positive Health, Reserve Capacity Model<sup>31</sup> or Capability Approach<sup>30</sup>, should exist side by  
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31 372 side. At the moment the CPHQ is being further developed and assessed<sup>32</sup>. One part of the research consists of  
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33 373 comprehensive focus groups with various stakeholders discussing and prioritizing items anew with the aim to  
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35 374 shorten the questionnaire and resulting in a broad supported instrument to assess the broad concept of health.  
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37 375 It is of interest to explore how these instruments can supplement each other, or in other words, which  
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39 376 instrument serves which aim and context best. Future choices of which tool to use should not only depend on  
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41 377 the measurement properties and usability of each tool but also on which construct definition is preferred as  
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43 378 the outcome to measure<sup>8,17</sup>.

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46 379 The PH22 scores, reflecting the outcome measure self-reported Positive Health, can add to evaluate  
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48 380 positive health and patient centered interventions during treatment and care. Person centered treatment and  
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50 381 care is more and more the standard for (health care) practices. In line with the new perspective on health it is  
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52 382 not possible to assess the effect of person centered care with disease oriented questionnaires alone. The  
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54 383 assessment of person centered care requires new tools focusing on Positive Health. The PH22 questionnaire  
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56 384 provides in this need. It is founded on the Positive Health indicators retrieved from a robust study among divers  
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58 385 stakeholders including patients and citizens<sup>5</sup>. From here the widely used MPH dialogue tool was developed.  
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60 386 Successively, the short PH22, derived from the MPH dialogue tool and developed through thorough methods,

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serves the purpose as measurement tool for person centered care and practices. Last, it should be emphasized that the PH22 is not meant for dialogue purposes. Specifically, for that aim the MPH dialogue tool was developed; to guide the conversation about someone's Positive Health and reflect on someone's personalized (positive) health-related goals over time in his or her specific context.

Prior to the actual use of the PH22 as a measuring tool in evaluative research, it is essential to explore its test-retest reliability and responsiveness for change. Future research has to explore this so that differences in scores can be correctly interpreted. Other aspects mentioned by the COSMIN guidelines important to further develop the PH22 are research at its construct or criteria validity by hypotheses testing, in which the PH22 scores are related to other similar constructs, as was also done for the PH17 and PH42<sup>9,10,26</sup>. Moreover, to assign qualitative meaning to the differences in PH22 scores, it is of major interest to define clinical and commonly understood self-reported outcomes and align these. This will further improve the interpretability of the PH22.

## CONCLUSIONS

In this study a comprehensive methodological approach was applied using both content discussions and statistical output aiming to develop a content valid measurement tool for evaluative purposes in scientific or policy research at positive health or patient centered interventions assessing self-reported Positive Health. A relatively short questionnaire containing 22 items distributed over four dimensions, the PH22, was developed and cross-validated among a general (Dutch) population. This study supports its structural validity. To apply this questionnaire in evaluative research its test-retest reliability should be explored first, followed by responsiveness for change. Future research has to assess this.

## Additional material

Supplemental material file (.pdf); A. Items of the My Positive Health dialogue tool (MPH), B. Factor loadings of model with 42 MPH items; PH42, C1-6. Interitem Correlations of factors PH42, D-E. Factor loadings with 30-item and 24 PH model (round 2 and 3); F. The 22 item self-reported Positive Health questionnaire (PH22)

## List of abbreviations

CA Cronbach's alpha

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3	416	CFA	Confirmatory factor analysis
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5	417	CFI	Comparative fit index
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7	418	COSMIN	Reporting Guideline
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9	419	CPHQ	Context-sensitive Positive Health Questionnaire
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11	420	PCA	Principal component analysis
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13	421	FL	Factor loading
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15	422	IIC	Inter-item correlation
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17	423	IPH	Item number from the MPH dialogue tool
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19	424	KMO	Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin
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21	425	LISS panel	Longitudinal Internet studies for the Social Sciences – panel
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23	426	METC	Medical ethical review board (Medisch ethische toetsingscommissie)
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25	427	ML	Maximum likelihood
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27	428	MPH	My Positive Health dialogue tool
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29	429	PH17	Positive Health measurement scale with 17 items
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31	430	PH22	Positive Health measurement scale with 22 items
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33	431	PH42	Positive Health measurement scale with 42 items
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35	432	PROM	Patient-reported outcome measures
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37	433	RMSEA	Root mean square error of approximation
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39	434	STMR	Standardized root mean square residual
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A. Items of the My Positive Health dialogue tool (MPH)

Item number of the dialogue tool	Item
BF1	I feel healthy
BF2	I feel fit
BF3	I have no physical complaints or pain
BF4	I sleep well
BF5	I eat well
BF6	I recover quickly after exercise, such as sports.
BF7	I find it easy to move, such as going up and down stairs, walking or cycling
MW8	I am good at remembering things
MW9	I am able to concentrate
MW10	I am able to see, hear, talk and read
MW11	I feel cheerful
MW12	I accept myself for who I am
MW13	I look for solutions to change difficult situations
MW14	I feel in control of my life
MF15	I have a meaningful life
MF16	In the mornings, I look forward to the day ahead
MF17	I have ideals that I would like to achieve
MF18	I feel confident about my own future
MF19	I accept life as it comes
MF20	I am grateful for what life offers me
MF21	I want to continue learning throughout my life
QL22	I enjoy my life
QL23	I am happy
QL24	I feel good
QL25	I feel my life is well-balanced
QL26	I feel safe
QL27	I am content with where and with whom I live
QL28	I have enough money to pay my bills
SP29	I am in good contact with other people
SP30	Other people take me seriously
SP31	I have people with whom I can do fun things with
SP32	I have people who support me when I need it
SP33	I feel that I 'belong' in my environment
SP34	I consider my job or other activities to be meaningful
SP35	I am interested in what happens in society
DF36	I am well capable of looking after myself, for example with regard to personal hygiene, getting dressed, shopping, cooking
DF37	I know my limitations
DF38	I know how I can look after my own health
DF39	I am well capable of planning my day
DF40	I am well capable of managing the money that I have each month
DF41	I am able to work in a job or do voluntary work
DF42	I know how to apply for benefits or getting assistance from official agencies when necessary

BF: bodily functions, MW: mental wellbeing, MF: meaningfulness, QL: quality of life, SP: social and societal participation, DF: daily functioning  
(<https://vragenlijsten.mijnpositievegezondheid.nl/adults-en>)

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B. Factor loadings of model with 42 MPH items; PH42 (n=1199)<sup>1</sup>

Item number of the My Positive Health dialogue tool (MPH) (Expressed as IPH)	Acceptance. meaningfulness and satisfaction with life	Physical health and functioning	Self-management	Social network and societal roles	Personal development	Cognition
IPH25 Feeling well-balanced	<b>0.751</b>	0.064	0.129	0.053	0.047	0.036
IPH24 Feeling good	<b>0.708</b>	0.235	-0.009	0.097	0.051	0.005
IPH23 Being happy	<b>0.699</b>	0.082	-0.004	0.260	0.034	-0.023
IPH22 Enjoyment	<b>0.676</b>	0.086	0.021	0.253	0.060	-0.013
IPH16 Being high-spirited	<b>0.673</b>	0.105	0.046	0.129	0.102	0.033
IPH11 Being cheerful	<b>0.653</b>	0.159	-0.040	0.154	0.089	0.102
IPH19 Accepting life	<b>0.645</b>	-0.039	0.165	0.048	0.135	0.087
IPH20 Being grateful	<b>0.624</b>	0.008	0.114	0.135	0.160	0.002
IPH15 Having a meaningful life	<b>0.573</b>	0.049	0.045	0.249	0.183	0.005
IPH12 Accepting yourself	<b>0.572</b>	0.037	0.206	0.054	0.043	0.145
IPH18 Feeling confident about own future	<b>0.558</b>	0.161	0.033	0.093	0.344	-0.019
IPH14 Having control	<b>0.534</b>	0.026	0.201	0.105	0.163	0.123
IPH26 Feeling safe	<b>0.393</b>	0.074	0.185	0.256	0.028	0.078
IPH7 Exercise	-0.107	<b>0.877</b>	0.061	0.049	0.109	-0.118
IPH6 Physical condition	0.069	<b>0.783</b>	0.046	0.021	0.048	-0.013
IPH2 Feeling fit	0.206	<b>0.781</b>	0.052	-0.039	-0.002	0.003
IPH1 Feeling healthy	0.195	<b>0.769</b>	0.027	-0.032	0.016	0.028
IPH41 Being able to work	-0.089	<b>0.526</b>	0.291	0.058	0.266	-0.223
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	-0.031	<b>0.450</b>	-0.097	0.062	-0.018	0.193
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.395	<b>0.422</b>	-0.061	0.022	-0.276	0.254
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.241	<b>0.364</b>	0.248	0.087	-0.250	0.197
IPH40 Managing money	0.147	-0.036	<b>0.828</b>	0.001	-0.069	-0.070
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.001	0.014	<b>0.754</b>	0.017	0.011	0.233
IPH38 Knowledge of health	-0.022	0.157	<b>0.651</b>	0.088	0.019	0.201
IPH39 Managing time	0.132	0.001	<b>0.634</b>	-0.062	0.073	0.238
IPH36 Looking after yourself	-0.171	0.290	<b>0.633</b>	0.052	0.092	0.065
IPH28 Having enough money	0.219	0.035	<b>0.598</b>	0.147	-0.121	-0.231
IPH42 Asking for help	0.065	-0.044	<b>0.452</b>	0.178	0.175	-0.154
IPH32 Having the support of others	-0.014	-0.013	-0.036	<b>0.939</b>	-0.038	0.015
IPH31 Doing fun things together	0.043	0.070	-0.070	<b>0.899</b>	-0.014	-0.043
IPH33 Belonging	0.099	-0.015	0.018	<b>0.864</b>	-0.070	-0.028
IPH30 Being taken seriously	-0.023	-0.021	0.047	<b>0.792</b>	0.081	0.092
IPH29 Social contacts	0.111	0.013	-0.038	<b>0.786</b>	0.013	0.051
IPH27 Living conditions	0.335	-0.044	0.224	<b>0.423</b>	-0.140	-0.017
IPH35 Being interested in society	0.011	-0.002	0.181	<b>0.418</b>	0.263	-0.011
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	0.228	0.212	0.103	<b>0.401</b>	0.181	-0.169
IPH21 Continue learning	0.182	0.118	0.020	0.002	<b>0.660</b>	0.017
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.310	0.161	-0.115	-0.008	<b>0.643</b>	0.051

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization. Pattern matrix, rotation converged in 14 iterations.

1. van Druten VP, Metz MJ, Mathijssen JJP, van Vliet M, Rudd B, de Vries E, Nahar -van Venrooij L.M.W. Measuring positive health using the My Positive Health (MPH) and Individual Recovery Outcomes Counter (I.ROC) dialogue tools: a panel study on measurement properties in a representative general Dutch population. Applied Research in Quality of Life. Vol.21, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11482-024-10356-3>

1. Interitem Correlations of factor *Acceptation, meaningfulness and satisfaction with life* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH23 Being happy	IPH22 Enjoym ent	IPH25 Feeling well- balanced	IPH24 Feeling good	IPH16 Being high- spirited	IPH11 Being cheerful	IPH15 Having a meaningf ul life	IPH20 Being grateful	IPH18 Feeling confiden t about future	IPH19 Acceptin g life	IPH14 Having control	IPH12 Acceptin g yourself	IPH26 Feeling safe
IPH23 Being happy	1.000	0.893	0.811	0.844	0.784	0.815	0.769	0.756	0.746	0.664	0.699	0.652	0.646
IPH22 Enjoyment	0.893	1.000	0.804	0.842	0.793	0.822	0.785	0.769	0.747	0.678	0.705	0.669	0.658
IPH25 Feeling well-balanced	0.811	0.804	1.000	0.831	0.764	0.755	0.733	0.702	0.733	0.689	0.709	0.670	0.640
IPH24 Feeling good	0.844	0.842	0.831	1.000	0.784	0.827	0.726	0.682	0.734	0.657	0.680	0.687	0.648
IPH16 Being high-spirited	0.784	0.793	0.764	0.784	1.000	0.773	0.770	0.697	0.738	0.670	0.669	0.635	0.597
IPH11 Being cheerful	0.815	0.822	0.755	0.827	0.773	1.000	0.721	0.691	0.733	0.654	0.676	0.653	0.634
IPH15 Having a meaningful life	0.769	0.785	0.733	0.726	0.770	0.721	1.000	0.716	0.710	0.663	0.710	0.631	0.614
IPH20 Being grateful	0.756	0.769	0.702	0.682	0.697	0.691	0.716	1.000	0.722	0.709	0.653	0.647	0.613
IPH18 Feeling confident about own future	0.746	0.757	0.723	0.724	0.738	0.723	0.750	0.712	1.000	0.697	0.715	0.640	0.623
IPH19 Accepting life	0.664	0.678	0.689	0.657	0.670	0.654	0.663	0.709	0.667	1.000	0.664	0.667	0.596
IPH14 Having control	0.699	0.705	0.709	0.680	0.669	0.676	0.710	0.653	0.715	0.664	1.000	0.670	0.639
IPH12 Accepting yourself	0.652	0.669	0.670	0.687	0.635	0.653	0.631	0.647	0.640	0.667	0.670	1.000	0.574
IPH26 Feeling safe	0.646	0.658	0.640	0.648	0.597	0.634	0.614	0.613	0.623	0.596	0.639	0.574	1.000

**C2.** Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Physical health and functioning* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH2 Feeling fit	IPH7 Exercise	IPH1 Feeling healthy	IPH6 Physical condition	IPH41 Being able to work	IPH4 Sleeping pattern	IPH5 Eating pattern	IPH3 Having complaints or pain
IPH2 Feeling fit	1.000	0.704	0.845	0.735	0.490	0.488	0.516	0.361
IPH7 Exercise	0.704	1.000	0.682	0.735	0.548	0.395	0.435	0.312
IPH1 Feeling healthy	0.845	0.682	1.000	0.674	0.518	0.488	0.476	0.348
IPH6 Physical condition	0.735	0.735	0.674	1.000	0.477	0.462	0.537	0.313
IPH41 Being able to work	0.490	0.548	0.518	0.477	1.000	0.283	0.294	0.184
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.488	0.395	0.488	0.462	0.283	1.000	0.529	0.262
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.516	0.435	0.476	0.537	0.294	0.529	1.000	0.256
IPH3 Having complaints or pain	0.361	0.312	0.348	0.313	0.184	0.262	0.256	1.000

**C3.** Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Self-management* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH40 Managing money	IPH37 Knowing your limitations	IPH38 Knowledge of health	IPH36 Looking after yourself	IPH39 Managing time	IPH28 Having enough money	IPH42 Asking for help
IPH40 Managing money	1.000	0.569	0.570	0.503	0.554	0.690	0.443
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.569	1.000	0.779	0.656	0.628	0.403	0.393
IPH38 Knowledge of health	0.570	0.779	1.000	0.666	0.602	0.413	0.404
IPH36 Looking after yourself	0.503	0.656	0.666	1.000	0.501	0.359	0.305
IPH39 Managing time	0.554	0.628	0.602	0.501	1.000	0.388	0.417
IPH28 Having enough money	0.690	0.403	0.413	0.359	0.388	1.000	0.379
IPH42 Asking for help	0.443	0.393	0.404	0.305	0.417	0.379	1.000

C4. Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Social network and societal roles* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH31 Doing fun things together	IPH32 Having the support of others	IPH33 Belonging	IPH29 Social contacts	IPH30 Being taken seriously	IPH34 Doing meaningful things	IPH27 Living conditions	IPH35 Being interested in society
IPH31 Doing fun things together	1.000	0.822	0.774	0.734	0.694	0.598	0.538	0.492
IPH32 Having the support of others	0.822	1.000	0.779	0.695	0.678	0.557	0.582	0.467
IPH33 Belonging	0.774	0.779	1.000	0.743	0.711	0.621	0.569	0.523
IPH29 Social contacts	0.734	0.695	0.743	1.000	0.724	0.607	0.509	0.481
IPH30 Being taken seriously	0.694	0.678	0.711	0.724	1.000	0.561	0.533	0.540
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	0.598	0.557	0.621	0.607	0.561	1.000	0.485	0.521
IPH27 Living conditions	0.538	0.582	0.569	0.509	0.533	0.485	1.000	0.391
IPH35 Being interested in society	0.492	0.467	0.523	0.481	0.540	0.521	0.391	1.000

C5. Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Personal development* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH21 Continue learning	IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	IPH13 Being able to handle changes
IPH21 Continue learning	1.000	0.534	0.483
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.534	1.000	0.449
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	0.483	0.449	1.000

C6. Interitem Correlations between items of factor *Cognition* of 42-item model; PH42<sup>1</sup>

	IPH8 Being able to remember things	IPH9 Being able to concentrate	IPH10 Being able to communicate
IPH8 Being able to remember things	1.000	0.768	0.477
IPH9 Being able to concentrate	0.768	1.000	0.452
IPH10 Being able to communicate	0.477	0.452	1.000

1. van Druten VP, Metz MJ, Mathijssen JJP, van Vliet M, Rudd B, de Vries E, Nahar-van Venrooij L.M.W.. Measuring positive health using the My Positive Health (MPH) and Individual Recovery Outcomes Counter (I.ROC) dialogue tools: a panel study on measurement properties in a representative general Dutch population. *Applied Research in Quality of Life*. Vol.21, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11482-024-10356-3>

**D. Factor loadings of 30-item PH model (round 2) (n=1199)**

	Factor <sup>1</sup>			
	Contentment with life	Daily life management	Physical fitness	Future perspective
IPH32 Having the support of others	<b>0.757</b>	0.116	-0.196	0.045
IPH20 Being grateful	<b>0.731</b>	-0.027	0.114	0.129
IPH29 Social contacts	<b>0.730</b>	0.097	-0.107	0.097
IPH19 Accepting life	<b>0.729</b>	-0.022	0.136	0.064
IPH16 Being high-spirited	<b>0.712</b>	-0.049	0.246	0.116
IPH27 Living conditions	<b>0.710</b>	0.168	-0.046	-0.157
IPH24 Feeling good	<b>0.692</b>	-0.087	0.344	0.106
IPH30 Being taken seriously	<b>0.674</b>	0.194	-0.183	0.122
IPH26 Feeling safe	<b>0.673</b>	0.100	0.103	0.002
IPH12 Accepting yourself	<b>0.666</b>	0.045	0.217	-0.011
IPH14 Having control	<b>0.629</b>	0.111	0.156	0.121
IPH18 Feeling confident about own future	<b>0.610</b>	-0.038	0.197	0.350
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	<b>0.472</b>	0.187	0.079	0.260
IPH35 Being interested in society	<b>0.399</b>	0.263	-0.139	0.256
IPH9 Being able to concentrate	<b>0.369</b>	0.218	0.268	0.041
IPH40 Managing money	0.154	<b>0.780</b>	-0.031	-0.158
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.067	<b>0.762</b>	0.073	-0.049
IPH36 Looking after yourself	-0.107	<b>0.750</b>	0.161	0.096
IPH39 Managing time	0.041	<b>0.693</b>	0.118	0.033
IPH28 Having enough money	0.345	<b>0.535</b>	-0.043	-0.178
IPH42 Asking for help	0.166	<b>0.502</b>	-0.174	0.174
IPH41 Being able to work	-0.161	<b>0.495</b>	0.257	0.388
IPH2 Feeling fit	0.106	0.161	<b>0.674</b>	0.155
IPH6 Physical condition	0.031	0.193	<b>0.648</b>	0.197
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.364	-0.071	<b>0.644</b>	-0.204
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.316	0.238	<b>0.511</b>	-0.222
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	-0.052	0.064	<b>0.485</b>	0.107
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.269	-0.083	0.152	<b>0.663</b>
IPH21 Continue learning	0.230	0.032	0.032	<b>0.640</b>
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	0.289	0.101	-0.016	<b>0.465</b>

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis; Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization; Pattern matrix, rotation converged in 16 iterations

<sup>1</sup> During the process of item reduction the names of the factors were Contentment with life, Self-management, Physical health and functioning, and Personal development. Afterwards these were renamed by the research team into Contentment with life, Daily life management, Physical fitness, and Future perspective.

E. Factor loadings of 24-item PH model (round 3) (n=1199)

	Factor <sup>1</sup>			
	Contentment with life	Physical fitness	Daily life management	Future perspective
IPH32 Having the support of others	<b>0.846</b>	-0.136	0.023	0.009
IPH29 Social contacts	<b>0.806</b>	-0.055	0.014	0.051
IPH27 Living conditions	<b>0.773</b>	-0.007	0.093	-0.157
IPH30 Being taken seriously	<b>0.735</b>	-0.126	0.101	0.105
IPH26 Feeling safe	<b>0.654</b>	0.125	0.079	0.041
IPH20 Being grateful	<b>0.653</b>	0.137	-0.015	0.196
IPH16 Being high-spirited	<b>0.625</b>	0.276	-0.032	0.165
IPH19 Accepting life	<b>0.618</b>	0.158	0.021	0.150
IPH14 Having control	<b>0.543</b>	0.158	0.136	0.200
IPH12 Accepting yourself	<b>0.543</b>	0.248	0.106	0.067
IPH34 Doing meaningful things	<b>0.531</b>	0.120	0.081	0.210
IPH4 Sleeping pattern	0.332	<b>0.695</b>	-0.084	-0.194
IPH2 Feeling fit	0.057	<b>0.687</b>	0.141	0.161
IPH6 Physical condition	-0.001	<b>0.677</b>	0.142	0.199
IPH5 Eating pattern	0.255	<b>0.567</b>	0.250	-0.182
IPH3 Having physical complaints or pain	-0.115	<b>0.519</b>	0.046	0.152
IPH37 Knowing your limitations	0.022	0.033	<b>0.855</b>	-0.057
IPH36 Looking after yourself	-0.088	0.117	<b>0.791</b>	0.030
IPH40 Managing money	0.106	-0.032	<b>0.775</b>	-0.082
IPH39 Managing time	-0.022	0.062	<b>0.772</b>	0.057
IPH42 Asking for help	0.208	-0.203	<b>0.474</b>	0.151
IPH21 Continue learning	0.090	0.020	0.044	<b>0.758</b>
IPH17 Wanting to achieve ideals	0.140	0.148	-0.047	<b>0.701</b>
IPH13 Being able to handle changes	0.158	-0.024	0.118	<b>0.600</b>

Extraction Method: Principal Component Analysis. Rotation Method: Oblimin with Kaiser Normalization. Pattern matrix, rotation converged in 7 iterations.

<sup>1</sup> During the process of item reduction the names of the factors were Contentment with life, Physical health and functioning, Self-management, and Personal development. Afterwards these were renamed by the research team into Contentment with life, Physical fitness, Daily life management, and Future perspective.

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**F. The 22 item self-reported Positive Health questionnaire (PH22)**

Item number of the dialogue tool	Item
	Physical fitness
IPH2	I feel fit
IPH3	I have no physical complaints or pain
IPH4	I sleep well
IPH5	I eat well
IPH6	I recover quickly after exercise, such as sports
	Contentment with self, others and life
IPH12	I accept myself for who I am
IPH14	I feel in control of my life
IPH16	In the mornings. I look forward to the day ahead
IPH19	I accept life as it comes
IPH26	I feel safe
IPH27	I am content with where and with whom I live
IPH29	I am in good contact with other people
IPH32	I have people who support me when I need it
IPH34	I consider my job or other activities to be meaningful
	Daily life management
IPH36	I am well capable of looking after myself. for example with regard to personal hygiene. getting dressed. shopping. cooking
IPH37	I know my limitations
IPH39	I am well capable of planning my day
IPH40	I am well capable of managing the money that I have each month
IPH42	I know how to apply for benefits or getting assistance from official agencies when necessary
	Future perspective
IPH13	I look for solutions to change difficult situations
IPH17	I have ideals that I would like to achieve
IPH21	I want to continue learning throughout my life