Jefferson Scale of Empathy

Patient information: _____ Physician primary specialty: _____

Other health profession's primary specialty:

Please indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements by choosing the appropriate rating to the right of each statement. Please use the following 7-point scale (a higher number on the scale indicates more agreement). Mark one and only one response for each statement. 1—--2—--3—--4—--5—--6—--7 Strongly disagree Strongly agree

1. My understanding of how my patients and their families feel does not influence medical or surgical treatment.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

2. My patients feel better when I understand their feelings.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

3. It is difficult for me to view things from my patients' perspectives.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

4. I consider understanding my patients' body language as important as verbal communication in caregiver-patient relationships.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

5. I have a good sense of humor that I think contributes to a better clinical outcome.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

6. Because people are different, it is difficult for me to see things from my patients' perspectives.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

7. I try not to pay attention to my patients' emotions in history taking or in asking about their physical health.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8. Attentiveness to my patients' personal experiences does not influence treatment outcomes.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

9. I try to imagine myself in my patients' shoes when providing care to them.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

10. My patients value my understanding of their feelings which is therapeutic in its own right.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

11. Patient's illnesses can be cured only by medical or surgical treatment; therefore, emotional ties to my patients do not have a significant influence on medical or surgical outcomes.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

12. Asking patients about what is happening in their personal lives is unhelpful in understanding their physical complaints.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

13. I try to understand what is going on in my patients' minds by paying attention to their non-verbal cues and body language.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

14. I believe that emotion has no place in the treatment of medical illness.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

15. Empathy is a therapeutic skill without which success in treatment is limited.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

16. An important component of the relationship with my patients is my understanding of their emotional status, as well as that of their families.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

17. I try to think like my patients in order to render better care.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

18. I do not allow myself to be influenced by strong personal bonds between my patients and their family members.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

19. I do not enjoy reading non-medical literature or the arts.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

20. I believe that empathy is an important therapeutic factor in medical or surgical treatment.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7