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Computerized adaptive testing in Dutch mental health care: a new tool to assess depression and anxiety

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About the Author

Gerard Slok - Flens was born on May 15th, 1985 in Zaandam. In 2003, he completed secondary school at SG Zaanlands Lyceum in Zaandam. Additionally, he completed a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2007 and a Master of Science in Psychology in 2011, both at the University of Amsterdam. In 2014, he started as an external PhD student at Leiden University (Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Institute of Psychology) under the supervision of prof. dr. Edwin de Beurs, prof. dr. Philip Spinhoven, dr. Niels Smits, and dr. Caroline B. Terwee. The work presented here is the final product of this project. In the meantime, Gerard held various positions at the Foundation for benchmarking mental health care (Stichting Benchmark GGZ; SBG) from 2011 to 2018. His current position is that of Product owner of the Data portal mental health (GGZ Dataportaal; <https://ggzdataportaal.nl>) at the Quality alliance mental health (Alliantie kwaliteit in de geestelijke gezondheidszorg; Akwa GGZ; <https://akwaggz.nl>). Gerard's primary motivation in his work is to contribute to the improvement of mental health care. Additionally, he has a keen interest in world literature and the nature of reality.

List of Publications

- Crins, M. H., Terwee, C. B., Ogreden, O., Schuller, W., Dekker, P., **Flens, G.**, ... & Roorda, L. D. (2019). Differential item functioning of the PROMIS physical function, pain interference, and pain behavior item banks across patients with different musculoskeletal disorders and persons from the general population. *Quality of Life Research*, 28(5), 1231-1243.
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- de Beurs, E., & **Flens, G.** (2017). Gebruik van verschillende meetinstrumenten: de getransformeerde T-score en equivalente responsiviteit. In E. de Beurs, M. Barendregt, & L. Warmerdam (Eds.), *Behandeluitkomsten: bron voor kwaliteitsbeleid in de GGZ* (pp. 223-236). Amsterdam: Boom.
- de Beurs, E., **Flens, G.**, & Williams, G. (2019). Meetresultaten interpreteren in de klinische psychologie: een aantal voorstellen [The interpretation of measurement results in clinical psychology: several proposals]. *De Psycholoog*, 54(6), 10-23.
- Elsman, E. B., **Flens, G.**, de Beurs, E., Roorda, L. D., & Terwee, C. B. (2022). Towards standardization of measuring anxiety and depression: Differential item functioning for language and Dutch reference values of PROMIS item banks. *Plos one*, 17(8), e0273287.
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- Flens, G., Smits, N., Terwee, C. B., Dekker, J., Huijbrechts, I., & de Beurs, E. (2017).** Development of a computer adaptive test for depression based on the Dutch-Flemish version of the PROMIS item bank. *Evaluation & the health professions, 40*(1), 79-105.
- Flens, G., Smits, N., Terwee, C. B., Dekker, J., Huijbrechts, I., Spinhoven, P., & de Beurs, E. (2019).** Development of a computerized adaptive test for anxiety based on the Dutch-Flemish version of the PROMIS item bank. *Assessment, 26*(7), 1362-1374.
- Flens, G., Smits, N., Terwee, C. B., Pijck, L., Spinhoven, P., & de Beurs, E. (2021).** Practical Significance of Longitudinal Measurement Invariance Violations in the Dutch-Flemish PROMIS Item Banks for Depression and Anxiety: An Illustration With Ordered-Categorical Data. *Assessment, 28*(1), 277-294.
- Flens, G., Terwee, C. B., Smits, N., Williams, G., Spinhoven, P., Roorda, L. D., & de Beurs, E. (2022).** Construct validity, responsiveness, and utility of change indicators of the Dutch-Flemish PROMIS item banks for depression and anxiety administered as computerized adaptive test (CAT): A comparison with the Brief Symptom Inventory (BSI). *Psychological Assessment, 34*(1), 58-69.
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- van Bebber, J., **Flens, G.**, Wigman, J. T., de Beurs, E., Sytema, S., Wunderink, L., & Meijer, R. R. (2018). Application of the Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS) item parameters for Anxiety and Depression in the Netherlands. *International journal of methods in psychiatric research, 27*(4), e1744.
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