

**Table 2 Mean scores for the 8 dimensions of the short form 36 health survey (SF-36, version 1.0) and tests of scaling assumption**

Dimension		No. of items	Mean (SD)	Cronbach alpha	Ceiling/ floor <sup>a</sup>	Item internal consistency <sup>b</sup>	Item discriminant validity <sup>c</sup>
PF	Physical function	10	66.5 (28.3)	0.90	11.4/1.0	0.73–0.84	0.02–0.30
RP	Role–physical	4	60.4 (34.8)	0.78	11.5/12.1	0.69–0.74	0.15–0.43
BP	Bodily pain	2	56.4 (26.7)	0.89	16.2/1.4	0.94–0.96	0.13–0.41
GH	General health	5	64.0 (18.5)	0.71	10.0/0.2	0.61–0.77	0.10–0.51
VT	Vitality	4	55.7 (19.5)	0.71	12.3/0.2	0.62–0.75	0.08–0.50
SF	Social functioning	2	66.4 (22.2)	0.73	13.9/0.6	0.80–0.85	0.11–0.42
RE	Role–emotional	3	58.7 (40.2)	0.75	10.9/17.0	0.80–0.84	0.03–0.39
MH	Mental health	5	61.2 (22.2)	0.81	8.6/0.4	0.69–0.80	0.06–0.50

<sup>a</sup>Ceiling/floor: % with highest score (100) / % with lowest score (0).

<sup>b</sup>Item internal consistency: the extent to which items within the same dimension correlated with each other.

<sup>c</sup>The integrity of hypothesized item groupings relative to the health concepts hypothesized.

PF = physical functioning, RP = role–physical, BP = bodily pain, GH = general health, VT = vitality, SF = social functioning, RE = role–emotional and MH = mental health. SD = standard deviation.