

# Creating a Score Tally

## Overview

Sometimes it can be useful to create a tally of the response to a series of questions. For example, some simple diagnostics tools tally responses to generate a preliminary diagnosis. The easiest way to do this is to set the item values to a numeric value. For example, if you have the question: "How do you feel today?" The choices could be coded as:

0- Excellent

1- Fair

2- Sick

In this case, maybe a higher score on several different questions could trigger the need to referral. You would create a hidden value (i.e. `#form/total_score`) that sums the value of all the relevant questions. This will result in a numeric value.

A second hidden value (i.e. `#form/preliminary_diagnosis`) could help to interpret these values by using nested if statements to set the value of `preliminary_diagnosis`. For example, the calculation could read:

```
if(#form/total_score > 14, "high_risk", if(#form/total_score > 9, "monitor", "okay"))
```

You could also use the output of either `total_score` or `preliminary_diagnosis` to determine the display condition for relevant questions or labels.

This becomes more complicated if a question has to be coded with something other than numbers for item values, or if there are two possible answers that have the same numeric value. In these cases, the [checklist](#) and [weighted checklist](#) functions are really useful.

If your scoring is too complex even for these functions, you will need to create a hidden value that corresponds to each question and interprets the answers as a numeric value.