Executive control function: a review of its promise and challenges for clinical research. A report from the Committee on Research of the American Neuropsychiatric Association. Authors: Donald R Royall, The University of Texas Health Science Center, Edward C Lauterbach, Mercer University School of Medicine United States. ECF has recently been separated from the specific cognitive domains (memory, language, and praxis) traditionally used to assess patients. ECF impairment has been associated with lesions to the frontal cortex and its basal ganglia-thalamic connections. No single putative ECF measure can yet serve as a "gold standard." This and other obstacles to assessment of ECF are reviewed. Executive function (EF) is believed to control or influence the integration and application of cognitive functions such as attention and memory and is an important area of research in cognitive aging. Many recent studies and reviews of the literature have concluded that there is no single test for EF (see [1–3] for reviews of EF dimensions and tests), and results from latent variable modeling have suggested that little, if any, variability in cognitive performance can be directly attributed to EF [2, 6, 9]. Although latent variable modeling (structural equation modeling, and/or confirmatory, Executive control function: a review of its promise and challenges for clinical research. A report from the Committee on Research of the American Neuropsychiatric Association. DR Royall, EC Lauterbach, JL Cummings, A Reeve, TA Rummans, The Journal of neuropsychiatry and clinical neurosciences 14 (4), 377-405, 2002. 903. 2002.