

Health Professional Perspectives Regarding the Use of Patient-Reported Outcome Measures in an Integrated Primary Care Health Centre – A Feasibility Project

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OBJECTIVE:

- To assess health professional perspectives surrounding the implementation of a standardized package of patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) in an inner city, integrative primary care health centre
- To identify specific PROMs recommended for package inclusion

BACKGROUND:

- Family Health Teams actively evaluate and report patient health status and progress through the assessment of clinical practice quality and service delivery
- Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) monitor patient progress, evaluate treatment success and facilitate research
- Results determine where improvement can occur and where to allocate limited health care resources
- At present, there is no model for a standardized PROM package for use in the primary care environment of academic family health teams in Ontario



METHODS:

- This qualitative study involved semi-structured key informant interviews with health care practitioners working in the primary care health centre

RESULTS:

- Eleven practitioners participated
- Major themes identified
 - Attitudes around the use of PROMs
 - PROMs currently in use
 - Advantages and disadvantages
 - Barriers and facilitators
 - Desirable attributes
 - Specific PROMs identified for package inclusion
- Key informants concurred that a standardized package of PROMs would be useful
- Concerns surrounding implementation, relevance to individual professions and use within and between professions were raised

DISCUSSION:

- One major advantage identified was enhancing patient empowerment and centredness
- Disadvantages included patient survey 'fatigue' and literacy challenges
- An important barrier was lack of understanding as to how the PROM package would be implemented, administered and used
- Most important: a standardized PROM package must be comprehensive, relevant to each profession, applicable across the department, could have mixed components, and should not take too long to complete

CONCLUSIONS:

- Participants (10 of 11) agreed that implementing a standardized approach to the use of PROMs in the primary care setting was desirable
- Recommendations for PROMs were made
- Barriers were identified but participants felt they could be resolved by prudent planning and effective implementation strategies
- Once departmental acceptance is gained, the next step would be a pilot study to explore the logistics of implementing a standardized PROM approach.

List of PROMS Recommended For Package Inclusion

MENTAL HEALTH

BDI (Beck Depression Inventory)
DASS (Depression Anxiety Stress Scale)
Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale

PAIN AND PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Quick DASH (Disabilities of the Arm, Shoulder and Hand)
LEFS (Lower Extremity Functional Scale)
NDI (Neck Disability Index)
ODI (Oswestry Disability Index)
Pain Diagrams - various
Pain Rating Scales - various
Roland Morris Disability Questionnaire
SPADI (Shoulder Pain and Disability Index)

ORAL HEALTH

Geriatric Oral Health Assessment Index
Oral Health Impact Profile
Dental Impact Profile/Oral Health Quality of Life Inventory

OTHER

CAT (COPD Assessment Test)
Food Frequency Questionnaire - 3 or 7 day
HEI (Healthy Eating Index)
HJHS (Hemophilia Joint Health Score)
SF-12 (12-Item Short Form Health Survey)
WOMAC (Western Ontario and McMaster Universities Arthritis Index)



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