

THE EMPATHIC-30 QUESTIONNAIRE IS RELIABLE AND VALID FOR POLISH PEDIATRIC INTENSIVE CARE UNITS

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Introduction: Parent satisfaction is becoming a recognised quality indicator for Pediatric Intensive Care Units (PICU). Validated instruments are needed to empower parents to express their experiences and satisfaction of care. The Dutch EMPATHIC-30 questionnaire is one of the few instruments available.

Aim: To translate and validate the EMPATHIC-30 questionnaire for PICUs in Poland.

Method: The translation and cultural adaptation of the EMPATHIC-30 instrument was performed via a structured process including back and forward translation and consultation with parents. Statistical validation was performed by using Cronbach's alpha for reliability. Congruent validity was assessed by correlating the instrument with gold standards of satisfaction and non-differential validity by assessing patient characteristics with the five domains of the instrument with a 6-point rating scale; 1=definitely no; 6=definitely yes. The study has been performed in 10 beds PICU in Warsaw.

Results: Totally, 112 questionnaires were returned and analysed. The reliability estimates of domains were adequate (Table 1). The congruent validity provided a positive correlation between domains and four gold satisfaction questions (R_s .451 to .665; $p < 0.01$). Non-differential validity showed no significant differences between the five domains and length-of-stay, mechanical ventilation, or admission types.

Overall means of the domains were positively high except for the domain 'parental participation' (Table 1).

Conclusion: The reliability and validity of the EMPATHIC-30 Poland questionnaire proved to be adequate. This Polish version is a valid quality indicator measuring PICU quality of care as perceived by parents and should be used widely across Polish PICUs to benchmark clinical practice.

Table 1. Descriptives and reliability estimates for domains EMPATHIC-30 Poland

Domains	No. Items	n	mean	SD	α
Information	5	104	5.30	0.92	0.78
Care & Treatment	8	90	5.40	0.86	0.86
Organization	5	110	5.69	0.51	0.64
Parental Participation	6	102	4.99	0.99	0.77
Professional Attitude	6	110	5.47	0.74	0.81
Satisfaction Total Items	30	109	5.37	0.71	0.95

SD = standard deviation; α = Cronbach's alpha; Scale 1-6 (1=certainly no; 6=certainly yes)